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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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RSS a secret org, where does it get money: Priyank

BENGALURU, 13 OCT

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday alleged that the RSS is the "most secret organisation in the world". Kharge had recently written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking to impose a ban on all activities of the RSS in government institutions and public premises across the State.

"This is a most secret organisation in the world. Why such a secrecy? Who are these people?" he said.

On the RSS being the "world's largest NGO", he said, "If they are an NGO show me a registered copy. How are they funded? What is their funding mechanism? How are they making Rs 300 crore to Rs 400 crore?" *—PTI*

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Infant dies after polio vaccine; asphyxia blamed

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT

In Telangana's Sangareddy district, a three-month-old infant died after receiving pulse polio drops, with health officials stating that the cause was likely asphyxia, not the vaccine. The parents alleged that he died within 20 minutes of vaccination on Sunday. However, officials denied, stating he was observed post-vaccination and appeared normal.

About an hour later, the parents returned with the infant, who had been crying and vomiting after being fed bottled milk. A post-mortem revealed that the death was likely due to laryngeal spasm from aspiration, with the final report pending. No adverse events were reported among the other 108 children. *—PTI*

WB allows green crackers for 2 hrs during Deepavali

KOLKATA, OCT 13

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board on Monday said bursting of green fireworks will be allowed for two hours on the occasion of Kali Puja and Diwali on 20 October. Only green fireworks, "which result in significantly less pollution", can be used during the two-hour period, as per court directives, WBPCB Chairman Kalyan Rudra said. Fireworks certified by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) or the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) can only be used, it said. It has also launched a special vigil in collaboration with the police to prevent supply of unlicensed fireworks, he said. *—PTI*

13-year-old gangraped by 3 boys in UP

MIRZAPUR, 13 OCT

A 13-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three juveniles, including her cousin, in a village within the Dehat Kotwali area on Sunday evening. Police have taken the trio into custody. Circle Officer Amar Bahadur Singh said that the girl's cousin lured her to a secluded spot where the other two awaited. After the assault, they fled, leaving the girl in serious condition from bleeding. She managed to return home, where her family took her to the district hospital. An FIR has been filed under relevant sections of BNS and the POCSO Act. Inspector Amit Mishra said, "The three minors have been sent to a juvenile home. Further legal proceedings are underway." *—PTI*

Retail inflation in Sept slips to 1.54%: Govt data

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Retail inflation slipped to 1.54 per cent in September from 2.07 per cent in the preceding month mainly due to subdued prices of food items, including vegetables and pulses, according to government data released on Monday.

The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation was 5.49 per cent in September 2024.

"The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during September 2025 is mainly attributed to favourable base effect and decline in inflation of vegetables, oil and fats, fruits, pulses and products, cereal and products, egg, fuel and light," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said in a statement.

- It dropped from 2.07% in Aug to 1.54% in Sept owing to decline in inflation of vegetables, oil and fats, fruits, pulses, cereal and fuel, the government said

Year-on-year food inflation during September 2025 was (-) 2.28 per cent compared to (-) 0.64 per cent in August and 9.24 per cent in September last year.

In its October bi-monthly monetary policy, the Reserve Bank lowered its inflation projection for 2025-26 to 2.6 per cent from 3.1 per cent estimated in August.

Regarding the inflation outlook for second half of the fiscal, RBI said that healthy progress of the south-west monsoon, higher kharif sowing, adequate reservoir levels and comfortable buffer stock of foodgrains should keep food prices benign. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Hostages freed, prisoners swapped in Gaza deal

Bibi says he is committed to peace as Trump visits Israel

Hamas gunmen on pickup trucks escort buses carrying freed Palestinian prisoners following their release from Israeli jails in Jerusalem; People react as they watch a live broadcast of Israeli hostages being released from Hamas captivity, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

DEIR AL-BALAH, 13 OCT

All 20 remaining living hostages held in Gaza and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel walked free Monday as part of a ceasefire pausing two years of war that decimated the Gaza Strip and killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Hamas said Monday that it will release the bodies of four of the 28 deceased Israeli captives, though it was not immediately clear when the rest of the bodies would be sent back to Israel. Israel says it has released more than 1,900 Palestinian prisoners as part of the Gaza ceasefire deal.

Speaking to parliament, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared he was "committed to this peace," raising hopes that the ruinous war, which triggered other conflicts in the Middle East and had left scores of captives in militant hands, might come to an end.

Cheering crowds greeted buses of released prisoners in the West Bank and Gaza, while families and friends of the hostages gathered in a square in Tel Aviv, Israel, cried out with joy and relief as news arrived that the captives were free.

US President Donald Trump flew to the region and addressed the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. He was later to head to Egypt for a summit with other leaders on the US-proposed deal and post-war plans. *—PTI*

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> **We welcome the release of all hostages after over two years of captivity.... Their freedom stands as a tribute to the courage of their families, the unwavering peace efforts of President (Donald)Trump and the strong resolve of Prime Minister Netanyahu. We support Trump's sincere efforts to bring peace to the region**
>
> —Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

'GO TO ECI INSTEAD'

SC refuses to form SIT for 'vote chori' in Karnataka

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking an SIT probe headed by a former judge to inquire into allegations of electoral roll manipulation in Bengaluru Central and other constituencies.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the petitioner to pursue his plea with the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The bench ordered, "We have heard the petitioner's counsel and we are not inclined to entertain the petition, which is purportedly filed in public interest. The petitioner may pursue his plea before the ECI, if so advised."

Counsel for the petitioner, Rohit Pandey, a practising advocate, said that they have already filed the representation with the poll panel but it has not been accepted. The petitioner sought some time limit to be fixed for the poll panel to decide the plea, which the bench refused.

The plea refers to a press conference held by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in which he made explosive claims of a "huge criminal fraud" in polls through collusion between the BJP and the Election Commission, and termed it "vote theft".

He had cited an analysis of voter rolls in State and said "vote chori" is an "atom bomb on our democracy".

The plea also sought that no further revision or finalisation of electoral rolls be undertaken until the completion of an independent audit of the rolls. *—PTI*

Expelled Tej Pratap to contest from Mahua

PATNA, 13 OCT

RJD chief Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav will contest the Bihar elections from Mahua as his newly-floated party, Janshakti Janta Dal (JJD), announced candidates for 21 seats on Monday. Yadav, a former minister in the state government, floated the party after his father expelled him from the RJD in May.

"Tej Pratap, will contest the assembly elections from the Mahua constituency in Vaishali district," JJD state Chief Madan Yadav said, releasing the names of candidates for 21 seats.

Yadav had represented the Mahua seat till 2020 when RJD shifted him to Hasanpur.

The JJD fielded Sanjay Yadav in Madhepura, Taurif Rahman in Narkatiaganj, Dharmendra in Barauli, and Braj Bihari Bhatt in Kuchaikot, among others.

Yadav was expelled from the RJD for six years after he "confessed" on social media to being "in a relationship" with a woman. He, however, deleted the post later, claiming that his account was "hacked". Prasad disowned him, due to his "irresponsible behaviour".

Yadav had alleged that there was a "conspiracy" to drive a wedge between him and his younger brother, Tejashwi Yadav. *—PTI*

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CITY CRUMBLES, BIT BY BIT

For months, a portion of Mosque Road in the City has been left dug up, with the promised white topping works incomplete, inconveniencing pedestrians and affecting shopkeepers *PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD*

SC orders CBI probe into Karur stampede

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a CBI probe into the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed, saying that the incident has shaken the national conscience and deserves a fair and impartial investigation.

In its order on a plea by actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) for an independent probe, the top court also set up a three-member supervisory committee headed by former apex court judge Ajay Rastogi to monitor the CBI investigation.

Suspending the directions for the appointment of SIT and a one-man enquiry commission, the apex court criticised Justice N Senthilkumar of the Madras High Court for entertaining petitions on incident, ordering an SIT probe and making observations against TVK and it members without making them a party to the case.

A bench, comprising Justices JK Maheshwari and NV Anjaria, said the stampede had wide ramifications with respect the fundamental rights of the families who lost their kith and kin.

However, the DMK said that there are chances that the CBI probe could be cancelled. *—PTI*

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Kannada actor-comedian Raju Talikote dies at 62

BENGALURU, 13 OCT

Noted theatre artist and comedian Raju Talikote died of a heart attack at a private hospital in Manipal, Udupi district, on Monday, sources close to his family said.

He was 62.

Talikote, who was in Udupi for a film shoot, suffered a heart attack on Sunday night and was admitted to the hospital, where he passed away the following evening.

His last rites will be held on Tuesday at his native Chikka Sindagi in Sindagi taluk, Vijayapura district.

Known for his comic roles in north Karnataka's theatre and films, Talikote starred in productions such as 'Kaliyugada Kuduka'.

He was also a participant of 'Bigg Boss Kannada.'

Expressing grief, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on X, "The passing away of Talikote... is a loss to the Kannada film industry." *— PTI*

'INNOVATION DRIVES GROWTH'

3 researchers share Nobel in Economics

STOCKHOLM, 13 OCT

Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed

Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt have won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their research on how innovation drives economic growth. The trio shared the 11 million Swedish kronor (nearly USD 1.2 million) prize for work that quantified and explained "creative destruction," the process in which new technologies and businesses replace older ones, a concept popularised by economist Joseph Schumpeter.

The winners represent contrasting approaches. Economic historian Mokyr, 79, from Northwestern University, analysed long-term historical trends, showing that scientific explanations are essential for successful innovation. Howitt, 79, from Brown University, and Aghion, 69, from Collège de France and the London School of Economics, developed mathematical models to study sustained growth, including their influential 1992 paper on creative destruction.

Mokyr expressed surprise at the award, joking he was "more likely to be elected Pope." Aghion, also shocked, said he would invest his prize money in his research laboratory. The Nobel committee highlighted that the laureates' work demonstrates that economic growth cannot be taken for granted and that mechanisms supporting creative destruction must be upheld globally to avoid stagnation.

Aghion has previously advised French President Emmanuel Macron and co-chaired France's Artificial Intelligence Commission.

The prize also recognises the importance of combining historical and mathematical approaches to understand growth. *—PTI*

Cong's Yathindra compares RSS to Taliban

MYSURU, 13 OCT

Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, the son of the Chief Minister compared the RSS to the Taliban. "They (the RSS) have a similar mindset to that of the Taliban... they believe that in one religion only one view should be there. The Taliban issues diktats so Islam can be one particular way... they curtail freedom of women. Similarly, RSS organisation also wants Hindu religion in one way only," Yathindra said. The remarks come amid a row over banning the RSS and the Taliban Foreign Minister from Afghanistan was in India for an official visit. ***—Salar News***

Deve Gowda discharged, condition stable

BENGALURU, 13 OCT

Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, who was hospitalised here last week, is medically stable and was discharged on Monday, the hospital treating him said. The 92-year-old JD(S) patriarch was admitted to Manipal Hospital on 6 October for evaluation of fever and a urinary tract infection. "HD Deve Gowda is medically stable and getting discharged now," Manipal Hospital officials said in a statement. Gowda received treatment from a team of specialists during his stay. After being initially admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), he was later shifted to a regular ward for observation before being discharged. ***—PTI***

2 men killed over suspected old feud

VIJAYAPURA, 13 OCT

Two youths were brutally murdered in Kannur village of Vijayapura taluk in a suspected revenge attack, police said on Monday. The deceased are Sagar Belundagi, 23, and Isahak Khureshi, 24, both residents of the village. According to police sources, unidentified assailants attacked the duo with stones on Sunday and fled the scene immediately. Preliminary investigations suggest the killings were linked to a long-standing enmity. Two years ago, both victims had allegedly assaulted a man named Iranagouda from a nearby village, who had been undergoing treatment for his injuries and recently died. The Vijayapura Rural Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. ***—Salar News***

2 dead, 10 injured in Dharwad accident

DHARWAD, 13 OCT

Two people were killed and 10 others seriously injured when a cruiser vehicle crashed into a roadside tree near Tegur village in Dharwad on Sunday night. The deceased have been identified as Suresh Tuppad, 30, and Mahantamma Tuppad, 55, both residents of Gadag city. The victims were reportedly returning from Kolhapur in Maharashtra when the tragic accident occurred. Preliminary police reports suggest that driver fatigue may have caused the mishap, as the driver was allegedly drowsy at the wheel. All injured passengers have been admitted to a nearby hospital, where they are receiving treatment for multiple injuries. ***—Salar News***

Chief Secy to study TN policy on RSS

Priyank questions 'most secret' body's funding

BAGALKOTE, 13 OCT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he has directed the State Chief Secretary to examine Tamil Nadu's actions regarding a ban on RSS activities on government premises.

This comes after a letter from his Cabinet colleague and Minister for Electronics, IT/BT and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge calling for a Statewide ban on RSS activities in government institutions and public premises.

"(Priyank) has said that RSS was using government premises, and to do what the government in Tamil Nadu has done (to stop it). I have asked the Chief Secretary to verify and see what has been done in Tamil Nadu," Siddaramaiah told press.

In a letter to the Chief Minister dated October 4, Priyank, son of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, alleged that the RSS has been conducting its 'shakhas' in government and government-aided schools, as well as on public grounds, where "slogans are shouted and negative ideas are instilled in the minds of children and youth."

> **This is a most secret organisation in the world... If they are an NGO show me a registered copy. How are they funded?... How are they making Rs 300 crore to Rs 400 crore?**
>
> -Priyank Kharge, IT Minister

On Monday, Priyank continued to attack the RSS.

"This is a most secret organisation in the world. Why such a secrecy? Who are these people? Why should there be live telecast of RSS chief's address? What is their contribution? Let them tell me 10 of their contributions in 100 years of their existence," he told a press conference. "How are they making Rs 300 crore to Rs 400 crore?"

Adding that he is not against the Hindu religion, Priyank said, "Its ideology does not have equality and does not accept our Constitution and insists for Manu Smriti."

Priyank also questioned the nationalism of RSS saying, "How can an organisation that had not hoisted tri-colour for several decades and refuses to accept Indian Constitution be called patriotic." ***—PTI***

BJP fumes at Cong's RSS ban request

Many MPs, MLAs share its ideology: Prahlad

BENGALURU/MYSURU, 13 OCT

The BJP came down heavily against IT Minister Priyank Kharge's request to ban the RSS, terming it the "height of foolishness" and claiming that such a move cannot take effect because majority of the government belongs to the ideology.

"Previous Congress Presidents, such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Sonia Gandhi, everybody tried (to ban RSS), but they were unable to defend their actions," Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on X. "Restricting entry in certain places won't change much because most states, ministers, the majority of the MLAs, and MPs belong to this ideology. From minister to PM to CM, many people are active members of the RSS."

"The Muslim League was responsible for the division of the nation. People should understand the level of appeasement. They (Congress leaders) are sympathetic to the Muslim League, support PFI and SFI, and oppose nationalist forces because Congress never believes in nationalist ideology," he added.

> **Restricting entry in certain places won't change much because most states, ministers, the majority of the MLAs, and MPs belong to this (RSS') ideology**
>
> -Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister

Meanwhile, Krishnaraja MLA TS Srivatsa of BJP said Priyank's letter was "the height of foolishness", but CM Siddaramaiah's reply to it was "even more foolish".

Srivatsa, an active member of the RSS said that the organisation has been conducting its activities openly in full public view, not secretly.

Responding to Priyank's question on why the RSS held sticks he said, he said that RSS swayam sevaks hold sticks or lathis as part of its traditional uniform and training purposes to instill bravery, discipline among swayam sevaks and not for fighting.

Meanwhile, BJP leader CT Ravi alleged that the Congress party of "supports terrorism" and "eliminates patriotism", while the RSS espouses the values of nationalism and service to the nation. ***—Salar News with Agencies***

Senior Cong MLA calls buses 'women-only'

KARWAR, 13 OCT

Veteran Congress MLA and former minister RV Deshpande said that the five guarantee schemes have made State buses "women-only".

Speaking at an event in Dandeli in Uttara Kannada district, the Haliyal MLA added that the schemes are a financial burden on the State.

He said that the schemes were beneficial to women, but offered nothing for men.

"The Siddaramaiah government gave five guarantees. Rs 2,000 every month to women—it's a lottery for them. The situation of men has worsened. If men speak much, they will be punished," Deshpande claimed.

On the Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel for Karnataka women on non-luxury state buses, the 78-year-old leader said, "Buses, oh my God! Women have left for Dharwad, Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Yellamma temple. Women are all over these places. If men board the bus by mistake, then his body will fall (sic). These are all-women's buses. These are the programmes of Siddaramaiah," he said.

> **Even we don't know what more (CM) is going to give (women). I don't know what magic Siddaramaiah is doing.**
>
> —RV Deshpande, senior Congress MLA

"God knows who advised Siddaramaiah. If I were the Chief Minister, I would not have implemented it," the eight-time MLA said.

Deshpande also spoke about the Anna Bhagya scheme, which provides free rice, saying, "Let women take it and enjoy." ***—PTI***

CM denies Cabinet reshuffle buzz ahead of dinner meet

BENGALURU/ BAGALKOTE, 13 OCT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah rejected the buzz that his scheduled dinner meeting for Cabinet colleagues was linked to a reshuffle.

"There is nothing special in the dinner, it is a normal dinner. It may be special in your (media) view and for the Opposition, that's all. Food will be normal," he remarked. "It has nothing to do with this (dinner). Reshuffle has nothing to do with hosting a dinner."

"I often host dinners, it was not possible for some time now, so I'm hosting," Siddaramaiah told press in Bagalkote on Monday.

Siddaramaiah added that no one can become the CM without the support of the majority number of the party legislators, along with the blessings of the High Command, a reference to reports that DK Shivakumar might become CM during the "November revolution".

"The opinions of the legislators and the High Command are both very important. Without the opinion of the legislators no one can become the CM. Only if there is a majority, one can become CM. The High Command's blessings are also required," he said.

CM Siddaramaiah with Political Secretary Naseer Ahmed and others during Kittur Utsav-2025 in Bengaluru on Monday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD***

Earlier in the day in Bengaluru, the CM asked whether such a gathering was an offence. "Should we not meet?" In a statement, Siddaramaiah added that the government was considering providing reservation to the Valmiki community in the Cabinet. ***—PTI***

Govt panel says tunnel road study was rushed

BENGALURU, 13 OCT

An expert committee appointed by the State government has raised significant concerns regarding the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed underground tunnel connecting Hebbal and Silk Board in the City. The committee, led by Siddanagouda Hegaraddi of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), found that the DPR was rushed, relying on only four soil test points, which is deemed insufficient for such a large-scale project.

The report warned that positioning a tunnel shaft within Lalbagh Botanical Garden poses environmental risks and suggested reevaluating its impact on city transport and pollution. Moreover, it questioned the necessity of the tunnel given its parallel alignment to the proposed Namma Metro line, stating, "The general apprehension of stakeholders is that the road tunnel project on the proposed alignment will become redundant."

Technical shortcomings, including weak traffic studies that lacked primary data and details essential for evaluating tunnel design were highlighted.

The committee noted mismatches in traffic projections, cost estimates that appear low compared to similar projects in Mumbai, and inadequate measures. ***—Agencies***

Two arrested for gangrape in Chikkaballapur

CHIKKABALLAPUR, 13 OCT

Chikkaballapur police arrested two men for allegedly gangraping a 36-year-old woman from Manchenahalli on October 10. The accused, Sikhander Baba, a tractor mechanic, and Janardhana Achar, a scrap dealer, both 38, are residents of Chikkaballapur.

According to Inspector Yeshwant of the Women's Police Station, the woman, who had lost her parents and lived with her uncle, worked as a labourer.

She had come to Chikkaballapur seeking work when Sikhander offered her a lift.

Though she refused at first, he persuaded her, then took her to a deserted spot and raped her.

He later left her at a house in Tippenahalli village, called Janardhana, and the two assaulted her again before abandoning her near a petrol bunk.

The victim lodged a complaint the next day, and police arrested both men within 24 hours. ***—Salar News***

KITTUR UTSAV

Folk artistes pose during the flag off ceremony for Kittur Utsav-2025 in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD***

Belagavi bans Marathi Black Day rallies on 1 Nov

BELAGAVI, 13 OCT

The Belagavi district administration has announced that it will not permit pro-Maharashtrian groups to observe Karnataka Rajyotsava (State Formation Day) as Black Day on 1 November.

Organisations such as the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti and Shiv Sena have long marked the day in protest against the inclusion of Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka instead of Maharashtra.

At a Rajyotsava preparatory meeting with Kannada organisations, Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Roshan said the administration would not allow any activity that could disrupt the celebrations. "No rallies or meetings will be permitted. We urge people of all linguistic backgrounds to participate in the festival," he said.

The MES responded that protest is its democratic right and that it does not need official permission to express dissent. Despite repeated restrictions, the group has traditionally held marches wearing black, displayed black flags in Belagavi South, and conducted meetings at Maratha Mandir. It also plans to invite political leaders from Maharashtra to this year's gathering.

- Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, Shiv Sena have long marked the day in protest against the inclusion of Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka

To maintain law and order, authorities will intensify checks at all border points to prevent the entry of Maharashtra leaders. Meanwhile, the Karnataka Rakshna Vedike warned of disrupting any events by pro-Maharashtrian groups on the day. ***—Salar News***

WOMEN'S MEET

NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar with Karnataka's Chairperson Nagalakshmi, in Bengaluru, on Monday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD***

BANDH OBSERVED

Farmer bodies protest in Kalaburagi over flood relief

YOHAN P HONNADDI KALABURAGI, 13 OCT

Farmers organisations, led by the Kalyana Karnataka Horata Samiti called a Kalaburagi Bandh on Monday over the government's response to the rain-ravaged district.

The demonstrators had three primary demands from the government: a loan waiver, funds under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), and a compensation of Rs 25,000 per acre to the farmers. They also demanded a special package of Rs. 5,000 crore for the district and a loan waiver for farmers.

Leaders of different organisations began their protest early in the morning, blocking vehicle movement at the city's Central Bus Stand, Ram Mandir Circle, Aland Check Post, and Kharge Circle.

"It's been 13 days since we started a dharna at Jagat Circle in Kalaburagi, yet neither the district's elected representatives nor the district administration have shown the courtesy to meet and listen to the farmers' problems. This is an anti-farmer government," protesters said.

Protesters block vehicle movement in Kalaburagi town ***PHOTO: SALAR***

IT Minister Priyank Kharge, who is also the district-incharge, had visited the flood hit areas and promised aid. However, the BJP claimed that he was more focused on banning the RSS instead.

Rivers had overflowed in Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Bidar, Raichur, and Vijayapura districts, inundating thousands of acres of agricultural land, submerging 7.24 lakh hectares of crops.

Joint Director Agriculture Department Kalaburagi Samad Patel told Salar News that the rains affected 324,205 hectares of Kharif land.

On 30 September, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had conducted an aerial survey to reviewed the situation. He announced that NDR funds would be after conducting a survey.

BUS SERVICES SHUT IN KALABURAGI CITY

The Central Bus Stand was deserted with no buses or passengers in sight. The Kalaburagi Police Department has been alerted to prevent any unrest. ***—Salar News***

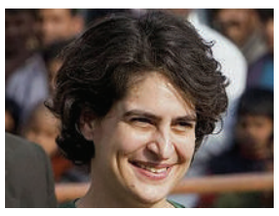


PHOTO: PTI

Centre didn't give Himachal aid for disasters: Priyanka

SHIMLA, 13 OCT

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the Union government on Monday of neglecting disaster-hit Himachal Pradesh, claiming the Centre 'ignores' states ruled by Congress. Speaking at a rally in Himachal, Priyanka said, "After Sukhvinder Sukhu became CM, heavy rains hit Himachal, but the Union government did not provide adequate help despite repeated requests." She alleged the BJP is focused only on elections and discriminates against Congress-ruled states. Between June and September, Himachal reported 47 cloudbursts, 98 flash floods, and 148 major landslides, killing 270 people and causing losses of Rs 5,426 crore. Priyanka emphasised the need for honest leadership and praised the Congress.—*PTI*

Sabarimala row: Tension erupts in Yuva Morcha march

T'PURAM, 13 OCT

Tensions erupted on Monday as Yuva Morcha activists staged a protest march to the Secretariat over alleged irregularities in the gold-plating of the Sabarimala temple. The agitators attempted to push police aside and jump barricades, hurling plastic bottles and sticks at officers, who repeatedly used a water cannon to disperse the crowd. Protesters raised slogans against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the state government. The demonstration follows a Kerala High Court order directing an inquiry after noticing a reduction in the weight of gold on the Dwarapalaka idols. On 10 October, the court instructed the state police to register a criminal case and investigate the suspected misappropriation of gold from the shrine's lintels—*PTI*

SP leader Azam Khan's security restored

LUCKNOW, 13 OCT

Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan has had his security cover reinstated following his release on bail from Sitapur jail. Police confirmed that Khan, 77, now has a 'Y' category security detail, including five constables and three armed gunmen, typically provided to moderate security risks. The veteran leader, a founding member of the SP, was released after serving 23 months in jail on multiple charges, including a land encroachment case for which the Allahabad High Court recently granted bail. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who visited Khan in Rampur, described the cases against him as "fake" and pledged they would be withdrawn if the SP wins in Uttar Pradesh polls.—*PTI*

Bhutan must compensate for WB floods: Mamata

KKOLKATA, 13 OCT

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has attributed the recent devastating floods in North Bengal to water flowing from Bhutan and demanded compensation from the Himalayan kingdom. Visiting Nagrakata in Jalpaiguri district on Monday, Banerjee said rainwater from Bhutan through various rivers caused widespread damage, leaving at least 32 people dead and thousands homeless. She urged that West Bengal be included in the proposed Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission, with a meeting scheduled for 16 October. Banerjee is overseeing relief efforts, assuring victims that damaged houses will be rebuilt and vital documents, including Aadhaar and land papers, will be reissued. Temporary bridges were constructed to restore connectivity in flood-affected areas.—*PTI*

JD(U), BJP discuss swapping of seats

Both the parties consider giving up certain constituencies in favour of smaller allies in the polls

Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal (centre) with former Congress MLA Siddharth Saurav, former RJD MLA Sangeeta Kumari and former JDU MP Sunil Kumar Pintu as they join BJP in Patna PHOTO: PTI

PATNA, 13 OCT

Having struck a seat-sharing deal, leaders of the JD(U) and the BJP met here on Monday to thrash out constituencies they planned to swap or give up in favour of smaller allies in Bihar.

Both parties have decided to contest 101 seats each in the polls to the 243-strong assembly, leaving 29 for Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and six each for Rashtriya Lok Morcha of Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha and Hindustani Awam Morcha founded by former chief minister, and now a Union minister, Jitan Ram Manjhi.

After the meeting that took place at the residence of JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, state minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Nabin downplayed the outbursts of Manjhi, who has been feeling "undervalued" by getting far fewer seats than Paswan, and as many as Kushwaha, even though unlike the HAM which has four MLAs, the LJP(RV) and RLM have no representation in the outgoing assembly..

When the seat-sharing formula was announced in Delhi, Manjhi was back in Patna, where he warned the NDA of "adverse effects" of the "raw deal" given to his party.

The BJP candidates will be announced soon here. —*PTI*

JSP names candidates for 65 seats

PATNA, 13 OCT

The Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) announced its second list of candidates for the Bihar assembly elections, revealing contenders for 65 constituencies, while leaving the choice for the Raghopur seat—featuring founder Prashant Kishor against RJD's Tejashwi Yadav—undecided.

At a press conference, Kishor declared, "With this, the party has named candidates for 116 of the state's 243 seats." The first list featured 51 candidates, with more to be announced later.

Kishor noted that the list includes 31 candidates from the extremely weaker sections, 21 from Other Backward Classes, and 21 Muslims, stating, "The selection of candidates reflects the party's commitment to represent all sections of society."

Prominent names on the list include Kamlesh Paswan contesting from Harnaut, which has been a stronghold for CM Nitish Kumar. Advocate Abhay Kant Jha, known for his work on the Bhagalpur riots, will run from Bhagalpur. Other notable candidates include retired police officer Nasrullah Khan in Nokha, academic Shashikant Prasad in Phulwari, and Dr Shahnawaz in Barharia.

Among Muslim candidates are Md Ekramul Haque (Thakurganj), Naaz Ahmad Khan (Kesaria), and Aamir Haider (Bahadurpur), while Bablu Soren stands for Manihari in the ST-reserved seat. —*PTI*

Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor (left) with party National President Uday Singh during release of the party's second list PHOTO: PTI

> **Seat-sharing discussions with allies in the Grand Alliance have finalised 18 of the 19 constituencies CPI (ML) fought last time, while talks are underway for a few more**
>
> - Dipankar Bhattacharya, CPI(ML) Liberation General Secretary

Shankaracharya to field cow vigilantes in Bihar polls

PATNA, 13 OCT

Shankaracharya Avimuktesh waranand Saraswati has announced that he will field 'gau rakshaks' (cow vigilantes) as candidates across all 243 assembly constituencies in Bihar for the upcoming elections. This announcement came after the completion of his 'Gau Mata Sankalp Yatra,' which he undertook to urge voters not to engage in cow slaughter.

Saraswati remarked, "During the course of the yatra, I saw Bihar very closely. It is more rooted in its culture than I had expected. People came out in support of 'gau raksha'." He expressed his frustration with political parties for ignoring the issue, stating, "I am safeguarding dharma." —*PTI*

SBSP to contest 153 seats in Bihar

Ballia, 13 Oct

The Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) on Monday announced it will contest 153 seats in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, expressing disappointment over being denied seats by the NDA.

SBSP national general secretary Arvind Rajbhar said the party would announce its candidates in Patna on Tuesday. "We informed Amit Shah and JP Nadda in May that if no seat-sharing deal was reached, we would contest alone," he said.

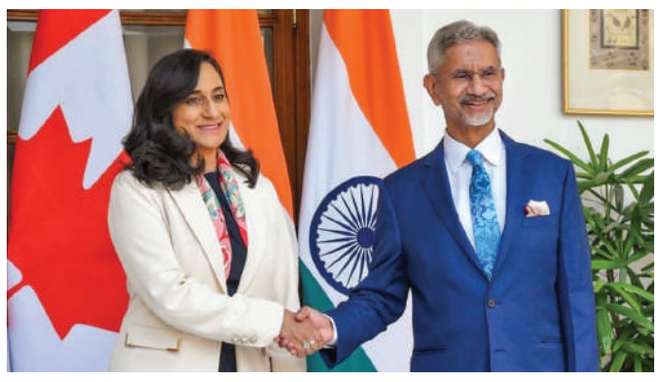
Rajbhar claimed the BJP's Bihar unit gave a negative report on the SBSP's strength. The party rejected RJD's offer to contest five seats. —*PTI*

Nomination filing for phase 2 begins

Patna, 13 Oct

The filing of nominations for 122 Bihar Assembly seats going to polls in the second phase began on Monday, officials said. The process started after the Election Commission issued the notification for polling on 11 November. Candidates can file nominations till 20 October, and the last date for withdrawal is 23 October.

Prominent constituencies include Imamganj, represented by Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's daughter-in-law Deepa Manjhi; Bodh Gaya, held by ex-RJD minister Kumar Sarvjeet; Lauriya, represented by Vinay Bihari; and Nautan held by former minister Narayan Prasad. —*PTI*



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Canada Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand during a meeting in New Delhi PHOTO: PTI

India, Canada firm up roadmap to expand ties

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

India and Canada have prepared an ambitious roadmap to advance ties in areas of trade, investment, critical minerals, energy and civil nuclear collaboration, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday.

Jaishankar made the remarks during his talks with his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand.

"India-Canada bilateral relations have been steadily progressing in the last few months. We are working to restore and reinvigorate the mechanisms necessary to advance our partnership," he said. .

The India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

However, both sides have initiated a series of measures to repair the ties after Liberal Party leader Mark Carney became the Prime Minister.

The renewed vibrancy in the ties between the two countries followed PM Modi's talks with Carney on the margins of the G7 summit at Canada's Kananaskis in June.

Before her talks with Jaishankar, Anand met PM Modi..

Anand arrived in New Delhi last evening as part of her three-nation tour. —*PTI*

Cong leader seeks action against Kerala CM's son

THRISSUR, 13 OCT

Congress leader Anil Akkara has lodged a formal complaint with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Union Finance Ministry, seeking action against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's son, Vivek Kiran, for failing to appear for questioning in the Life Mission money laundering case.

The controversy centres around a housing project for flood-affected families, funded by the UAE Red Crescent, which allegedly involved a commission of Rs 4.5 crore paid by Unitac Builders to middlemen.

Akkara claims that Kiran is implicated and must be interrogated to avoid delays in the trial.

"The custodial interrogation of CM's son is essential to prevent any attempt to sabotage the case," he stated. He also urged authorities to locate Khaled Mohamed Ali Shoukry, the former Finance Head at the UAE Consulate, who remains absconding.

While the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated a separate case over violations of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, Education Minister V Sivankutty dismissed Akkara's allegations as a "politically motivated conspiracy." —*PTI*

Lalu, Rabri and Tejashwi charged in IRCTC scam case

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

A Delhi court on Monday framed charges against RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Bihar CM Rabri Devi and their son and leader of opposition Tejashwi Yadav in the alleged IRCTC scam case.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), headed by Lalu, is one of the major political parties contesting the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls.

The court said there was a "prima facie" case against the accused and "grave suspicion" regarding the land transfers.

Lalu and Rabri, the former CMs, and Tejashwi, the former deputy chief minister and leader of opposition in the Bihar legislative assembly, pleaded "not guilty" and claimed trial after the charges were read.

The trial is likely to commence in the last week of October. The issue may be used by their political opponents in the upcoming poll campaign.

Charges of criminal conspiracy and cheating were framed against Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav in the case, which stems from alleged irregularities in the grant of operational contracts of two Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) hotels to a private firm.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, and son Tejashwi Yadav at Rouse Avenue Court in New Delhi on Monday PHOTO: PTI

Corruption charges were formed against Lalu.

The judge said that land parcels were given at undervalued rates causing a loss to the public exchequer. A detailed order is awaited.

According to the CBI chargesheet, a conspiracy was allegedly hatched in pursuance of which BNR hotels of the Indian Railway were first transferred to IRCTC and later given on lease to the Sujata Hotels Private Limited situated in Patna in Bihar. —*PTI*

QUIT SERVICES IN 2019

Rebel ex-IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan joins Congress

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who quit the services in 2019 over "denial of freedom of expression" to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, joined the Congress on Monday and said he realised that only the grand old party can take the country in the right direction.

Gopinathan joined the party in the presence of Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, AICC media and other senior leaders.

Gopinathan's joining the Congress party is a clear message that it's the only party fighting for justice with an ideology, Venugopal said.

"He resigned in 2019, but his resignation has still not been accepted. Bureaucrats who fight for justice and the marginalised are being penalised by the government ...," Venugopal said.

AICC media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said that when speaking out in the country had become almost impossible, Gopinathan raised his voice.

"I am happy to join Congress party," Gopinathan said.—*PTI*

Kannan Gopinathan, Congress leader Pawan Khera and AICC in-charge of NSUI Kanhaiya Kumar in a meeting in New Delhi on Monday PHOTO: PTI

Raj Thackeray wants Congress on board, says Raut

MUMBAI, 13 OCT

Sanjay Raut, MP from the Shiv Sena (UBT), claimed on Monday that the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), led by Raj Thackeray, would like to collaborate with the Congress as part of the Opposition alliance, Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

However, MNS leader Sandeep Deshpande firmly stated, "The party will forth its position and no one else. In future, only we will state our stance," dismissing Raut's comments.

Amid discussions of potential cooperation for upcoming local body polls, Raut remarked, "Even Raj Thackeray desires that the Congress... should be taken along," although he emphasised no firm decisions have been made yet. Discussions took place between Raut and Congress members. —*PTI*

PFI's plea against Centre's ban acceptable, says HC

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Delhi High Court has deemed a plea by the Popular Front of India (PFI) against a tribunal's decision to uphold the Centre's five-year ban on the group as maintainable.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued a notice to the Centre, requesting a response within six weeks.

The PFI has been granted two weeks to file its rejoinder, with the next hearing scheduled for 20 January, 2026.

The tribunal's verdict, confirmed on 21 March, 2024, followed the Centre's 27 September, 2022, ban citing the PFI's alleged connections to global terrorist organisations like ISIS and its attempts to foment communal discord.

The Centre characterised the PFI and its associated entities, including the Campus Front of India and the Rehab India Foundation, as "unlawful associations."

Over 150 individuals linked to the PFI were detained in a nationwide crackdown in September 2022. —*PTI*

TN govt revokes licence of Coldrif firm

Company ordered to shut down following deaths of children; ED raids 7 premises of firm

CHENNAI, 13 OCT

The manufacturing licence of Tamil Nadu based Sresan Pharmaceutical company involved in making the adulterated cough syrup Coldrif has completely been revoked, and the company has been ordered to shut down, the state government informed on Monday.

The state Drug Control Department officials had found the cough syrup contained 48.6 per cent of diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic substance.

This medicine is linked to the death of 22 children in Madhya Pradesh.

The company lacked proper good manufacturing practices and good laboratory practices and they recorded over 300 critical and major violations.

The company's owner, G Ranganathan, was recently arrested by a special investigation team from Madhya Pradesh.

"Orders have been given to conduct a detailed inspection of other drug manufacturing companies located in Tamil Nadu," a government statement said.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday raided seven premises linked to Sresan Pharmaceuticals in Chennai and top officials of the Tamil Nadu Food and Drug Administration (TNFDA) as part of a money laundering investigation.

The action came after the federal probe agency registered a criminal case, taking cognisance of police complaints filed against the company in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Licensed in 2011 by TNFDA), the Kanchipuram-based company continued operations unchecked for over a decade despite its dismal infrastructure and multiple violations of national drug safety rules, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation said.

Following the deaths, the Madhya Pradesh government suspended two drug inspectors and a deputy director of the FDA. It also transferred the state's drug controller and ordered an investigation into the deaths, while police arrested a doctor from Chhindwara district on charges of negligence.

The TN government earlier suspended two senior state drug inspectors. —*PTI*

The Drug Control Department found the cough syrup contained 48.6% of DEG, a toxic substance, linked to the death of 22 children in MP ***PHOTO: PTI***

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Snakebite envenoming health emergency: Kerala

T'PURAM, 13 OCT

The Kerala government has officially declared snakebite envenomation a disease of "utmost public health importance" under Section 28 of the Kerala Public Health Act, 2023. The move, announced through a gazette notification, seeks to improve statewide data collection, reporting, and treatment standards amid growing concerns over fatalities and long-term disabilities by snakebites.

Officials said the designation will ensure timely care and uniform treatment protocols across all districts.

The decision follows a Kerala High Court directive last month, which urged the state to make snakebite cases notifiable to enable better policy interventions.

The court order followed the petitions filed after the 2019 death of a schoolgirl in Wayanad. —*PTI*

T'gana children's home official rapes boy

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT

A supervisor at a state-run children's home in Saidabad, Hyderabad, has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a 10-year-old boy living at the facility. Police said the assaults reportedly occurred on several occasions since May this year within the premises of the children's home, where the accused was responsible for supervising the children.

The victim disclosed the abuse to his mother after returning home for the Dussehra holidays, following which she lodged a complaint with the police. A case was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The accused remains in custody, and investigators are also probing whether other children were subjected to similar abuse. —*PTI*

Andaman fisher asks PM for fishing training institute

PORT BLAIR, 13 OCT

Durai Selvam, a fisherman from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to discuss the future of the islands' fishing industry. During the meeting, Selvam requested approval for a deep-sea fishing training facility, an extension of the fishing harbour, a fish processing unit, and diesel subsidies to support local fishermen. In response, PM Modi advised him and others to focus on harvesting tuna and tuna-like species as it could significantly boost seafood exports, with a potential annual yield of 60,000 tonnes. Selvam also expressed gratitude for support under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, which improved cold chain infrastructure and hygienic fish transport. —*PTI*

TN temples earn Rs 17.76 cr via gold monetisation

CHENNAI, 13 OCT

Tamil Nadu temples have collectively earned an impressive Rs 17.76 crore annually through interest accrued from the state government's gold monetisation scheme, announced State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister PK Sekar Babu. A total of 1,074kg of gold ornaments, donated to various temples, have been melted down into bars and deposited with the State Bank of India under each temple's name. On 12 October, gold weighing 53.38kg was handed over from four Kancheepuram temples in the presence of retired Supreme Court judge Dorai Swamy Raju and state officials. 378.6kg from a further 12 temples will soon be deposited. The government orders would facilitate the scheme in the temples —*PTI*

Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad raise slogans during a protest over the alleged rape of a medical student in West Bengal's Durgapur, in Kolkata, Monday ***PHOTO: PTI***

2 more arrested in Durgapur gangrape

KOLKATA, 13 OCT

The West Bengal Police on Monday arrested two more persons in connection with the alleged gangrape of a medical student in Durgapur, taking the total number of apprehensions in the case to five.

The 23-year-old woman hailing from Jaleswar in Odisha's Balasore district was gangraped on 10 October when she had gone out with a friend to have dinner.

Three persons were arrested earlier for their alleged involvement in incident.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said her government has 'zero tolerance' for such crimes. However, she also urged women not to venture out alone late at night, a remark that drew sharp criticism from opposition parties and women's rights groups.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urged his West Bengal counterpart to ensure the strictest punishment for the culprits.

Odisha State Commission for Women chairperson Sovana Mohanty also reached West Bengal to speak to the survivor and check her health condition and hold discussions with the local police.

- CM Mamata Banerjee said her government has 'zero tolerance' for such crimes. However, she also urged women not to venture out alone late at night, a remark that drew sharp criticism from opposition parties.

Meanwhile, the Opposition BJP on Monday launched a six-day sit-in at Durgapur's City Centre area in Paschim Bardhaman district to protest the incident.

Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, alleged that at least one of the arrested accused is a Trinamool Congress (TMC) worker.

TMC spokesperson Debanshu Bhattacharya said that even if he was a party worker, the party has zero tolerance for crimes. —*PTI*

Durgapur rape victim's father fears for her life

BHUBANESWAR, 13 OCT

The father of a 23-year-old woman allegedly gang-raped in Durgapur, West Bengal, has appealed to the Odisha government to transfer his daughter to Bhubaneswar for treatment, citing fears for her life.

The survivor, a second-year MBBS student, remains hospitalised in Durgapur.

"I appeal to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to help shift my daughter to Bhubaneswar. I fear her life may be in danger," he said on Sunday.

The Dalit woman was reportedly attacked by three men shortly after 8 pm on Friday while accompanying a male student.

Her father said, "They will kill my daughter. Her health has improved, but she is still at risk. I cannot trust them."

Balasore Additional District Magistrate Hemant Singh Singh confirmed three arrests within 36 hours and noted the Odisha government's support. BJP MP Pratap Sarangi criticised West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, blaming the incident on a "complete breakdown" of law and order. —*PTI*

SC issues notice over Mullaperiyar dam

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre, the Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments as well as the National Disaster Management Authority on a PIL seeking construction of a new dam to replace the 130-year-old dam following concerns over its safety and structural stability.

The court heard the Save Kerala Brigade's petition alleging that over 10 million people live in close vicinity of the British-era dam.

The court said that the matter be examined by an expert body to assess safety aspects and feasibility of constructing a new structure.

The Mullaperiyar dam, built in 1895 across the Periyar River in Kerala's Idukki district, is operated by Tamil Nadu under a lease agreement.

It has long been a point of contention with Kerala citing safety concerns due to its age and seismic vulnerability and Tamil Nadu emphasising its importance for irrigation and drinking water supply to several southern districts.

Meanwhile, the Kerala police said that security personnel conducted intensive searches at the Mullaperiyar dam following a bomb threat.

An email, threatening to blow up the reservoir, was received at the district collectorate in neighbouring Thrissur. —*PTI*

The Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala's Idukki district has long been a point of contention with Kerala citing safety concerns ***PHOTO: PTI***

MNS worker slaps woman over remark on Marathi

THANE, 13 OCT

A video circulating on social media shows a Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) office-bearer slapping a woman at Kalwa railway station on Friday night, sparking widespread attention online.

The incident reportedly occurred after an argument in which the woman allegedly made derogatory remarks about the Marathi language while confronting the husband of the MNS functionary. In the clip, the woman is seen apologising before being slapped and verbally warned by the office-bearer.

A Government Railway Police official said the dispute was resolved after the woman offered an apology.

Both parties later approached the GRP to confirm the matter was settled and left without registering a case. Officials at Kalwa police station also received no complaint. The video sparked debates on social media about the conduct of political functionaries and language sensitivity. —*PTI*

2 Karur families misled in CBI pleas

KARUR, 13 OCT

Two families affected by the tragic stampede in Karur, which claimed 41 lives on 27 September, have alleged they were misled into filing writs in the Supreme Court seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry. They believed the documents were for seeking compensation and employment for bereaved relatives.

Sharmila, the mother of a 9-year-old victim, stated, "We did not know that a CBI inquiry was requested on our behalf regarding the Karur tragedy." She revealed that Panneerselvam, her husband who signed the petition, abandoned the family when their son was just six months old.

P Selvaraj, another affected individual, confirmed he signed papers thinking they were related to compensation after losing his wife, Chandra, in the stampede. "I did not know what exactly they were until the news broke out on the court case asking for a CBI probe," he remarked.

The Tamil Nadu Digital Journalists Union has filed a petition in the Supreme Court regarding the petitions and demanding an investigation into the matter. —*PTI*

HC dismisses PIL on Arundhati Roy's book

KOCHI, 13 OCT

The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a stay on the sale of Arundhati Roy's new book over its cover showing her smoking.

The petition, filed by Kochi resident Rajsimhan, claimed the cover of Mother Mary Comes to Me violated statutory norms by displaying the author smoking without the mandated health warning.

Roy's counsel countered that the petition ignored the publisher's disclaimer clarifying the image was not intended to promote smoking and lacked proper research.

The court noted that any alleged breach of Section 5 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA) must be determined by the competent authority. Since the petitioner had not approached that authority, the court said using a PIL in this case was unwarranted.

The bench also cautioned against filing PILs for self-publicity. —*PTI*

Now, eminent people to discuss Zubeen Garg's autopsy report

GUWAHATI, 13 OCT

The Assam Police has invited prominent members of civil society to discuss the final post-mortem report of celebrated singer Zubeen Garg, who died in Singapore last month. CID's Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta clarified that the report, including the viscera analysis, "will not be made public," but will be shared with selected individuals during a meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 4pm. Gupta did not disclose the names of those invited but emphasised that the findings would be presented to the court in due course.

Garg, who tragically passed away while swimming off Singapore on 19 September, had attended the 4th edition of the North East India Festival.

In a related development, three more Assamese expatriates who witnessed his final moments have come forward to speak to the police. Criminal Investigation Department officials are currently interrogating these witnesses, with hopes of hearing from additional individuals in the coming days. The investigators have discovered a "definite angle" after receiving the viscera report. —*PTI*

WANTED CRIMINAL SHOT DEAD IN UP

MEERUT, 13 OCT

A wanted criminal was killed in an encounter with police in UP's Meerut on Monday morning. The accused, Shahzad alias Nikki, from Mohammadpur Sakist village here, had seven cases registered against him, including rape. Shahzad was signalled to stop during checking, but he opened fire at police. Police fired in self-defence and the accused was injured. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died. —*PTI*

"The three new laws will provide easy and timely access to justice for all. Through the laws, our criminal system will be driven by justice rather than punishment

- Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

FORCED HUMILIATION

MP man made to wash Brahmin's feet over AI pic

DAMOH, 13 OCT

A young man was allegedly forced to wash the feet of a Brahmin villager and drink the water after sharing an "objectionable" AI-generated image, prompting police to register a case against four people.

The incident occurred on September 11 in Satariya village, and a video has circulated on social media.

Purshottam Kushwaha, from an OBC community, reportedly posted an AI-generated image showing Annu Pandey wearing a garland of shoes. After the post went viral, Kushwaha deleted it and publicly apologised.

A village panchayat convened and ordered Kushwaha to wash Pandey's feet, drink the water, and pay a fine of Rs 5,100.

Another video showed him saying he did not want the matter politicised.

Local officials noted the victim has not filed a formal complaint.

A FIR was registered against four men, including Pandey, confirmed Damoh Collector Sudhir Kumar Kocher.

The Congress condemned the incident as a "blot on humanity" and called for strict action, urging adherence to Dr B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution, not the "favoured Manuvad" of the RSS and BJP.

BJP state media in-charge Ashish Agrawal accused Congress of politicising the matter, asserting that Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's government acts promptly in all crimes. —*PTI*

A village panchayat was convened and Kushwaha was forced to wash Pandey's feet and drink the same water. The panchayat also imposed a fine of Rs 5,100 on him ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

PORTLAND'S NAKED PROTEST

Hundreds of naked and semi-naked cyclists were seen protesting and blocking the Burnside Bridge in Portland, Oregon, in an 'emergency' edition of the annual World Naked Bike Ride. The protest followed US President Donald Trump's decision to deploy National Guard to 'war-ravaged' Portland to take care of 'domestic terrorists'. The decision is on hold for now
PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Aparajita Bill resurfaces amid Durgapur rape case

A fresh political slugfest erupted on Monday after the alleged gang rape of a medical student in Durgapur, as the TMC and BJP locked horns over the fate of the stalled Aparajita Bill, the Mamata Banerjee government's proposed law to toughen punishment for crimes against women.

While the opposition BJP accused her government of "completely failing" to ensure women's safety in the state, the ruling TMC hit back, blaming the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for "sitting" on the Aparajita Bill and preventing it from becoming law.

The Durgapur woman, a medical student originally from Odisha, was allegedly gang-raped near the college campus in the industrial township on the night of 10 October.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's office posted an appeal on social media urging Mamata Banerjee to ensure "exemplary punishment" for the culprits.

Though the West Bengal CM refrained from a direct response, the TMC leadership reignited the debate over the Aparajita (Women and Child Protection) Bill, 2025, pointing out that it could have served as a stronger deterrent, if only the Centre had not stalled it.

The Aparajita Bill was passed unanimously in a special Assembly session in September 2024, in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The legislation was introduced after the brutal rape and murder of a young doctor at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College on 8 August last year, an incident that had triggered massive protests under the 'Reclaim the Night' movement and forced the state government to promise sweeping legal reforms.

The Bill, named after the Bengali word for 'unconquered woman', proposed stricter punishment, including death penalty and life imprisonment without remission, for heinous crimes such as rape and murder of women and children.

BJP leaders Locket Chatterjee and Jyotirmay Singh Mahato along with party workers stage a protest against the state government and police administration over the alleged gang rape of an MBBS student, in Durgapur, West Bengal
PHOTO: PTI

However, the legislation hit a constitutional roadblock after Governor CV Ananda Bose forwarded it to President Droupadi Murmu for assent.

In July this year, the Centre sent the Bill back to Raj Bhavan seeking clarifications, which were then relayed to the state government.

According to Raj Bhavan sources, the Centre raised "serious objections" to the proposed measures in the Aparajita Bill that sought to alter multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the new national criminal code.

Legal experts say the matter is now in limbo. Unless the state government provides satisfactory explanations addressing the constitutional and legal concerns raised by the Centre, the Bill cannot proceed further.

For the BJP, the Durgapur case has provided a political opening to question Mamata Banerjee's claims of ensuring women's safety.

"Instead of blaming Delhi, the chief minister should look within. Bengal has become unsafe for women. Law and order has collapsed," BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya told PTI.

Echoing his party's criticism, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, said it was "a matter of shame" that women's safety remained in such a poor state even under a woman chief minister.

"It is unfortunate that we failed to protect our sister from Odisha. Instead of ensuring women's safety, the chief minister is telling women to take care of their own protection," the senior BJP leader said.

The TMC countered the charge by accusing the BJP-led Centre of hypocrisy.

"The same BJP that supported the Aparajita Bill in the Assembly is now blocking its implementation by Delhi. The Modi government talks a lot about 'Beti Bachao', but when a state tries to do something concrete, they stop it," state Women & Child Development Minister Shashi Panja said.

"The people of Bengal are watching. If the Centre doesn't allow this Bill to become law, it will be seen as obstructing women's justice," she said.

The controversy has also reopened the debate over the balance of power between the Centre and the states in framing criminal laws.

Under the Constitution, while 'public order' and 'police' fall under the state list, criminal law remains in the concurrent list, requiring central concurrence for any amendment to national statutes like the BNS.

The Aparajita Bill was among Mamata Banerjee's key political promises made in the wake of the RG Kar outrage, and its fate now risks turning into a symbol of political deadlock between the state and the Centre. *—PTI*

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

What is Trump's stance on int'l climate action?

In his rambling speech to the United Nations last month, United States President Donald Trump described climate change as "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world".

Of course, this claim was unfounded, ignoring the overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is occurring.

It was also unlikely to convince gathered dignitaries, who appeared bemused by a speech better suited to a campaign rally than a presidential address to world leaders.

But coming on the eve of the crucial global COP30 climate talks in Brazil, the speech does raise the question: what does the second Trump administration mean for international climate action?

Last month, US President Donald Trump announced a plan to open up 13 million acres of federal land for coal mining ***PHOTO: PTI***

TRUMP DIGS COAL

Beyond enabling climate denialists and disinformation peddlers, Trump has ultimately delivered on his campaign promise to aggressively support the US fossil fuel sector. In his words: "drill, baby, drill". Or, more recently: "mine, baby, mine".

Soon after his inauguration, Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement, the legally binding UN treaty aimed at limiting global temperature rise well below 2°C degrees over pre-industrial levels.

Last month, Trump announced a plan to open up 13 million acres of federal land for coal mining, and offered hundreds of millions in federal subsidies for coal projects.

He has ordered the removal of climate data from government sites and all but eliminated direct government funding for climate science research and monitoring.

And he has gutted the Inflation Reduction Act, the signature climate initiative of the Biden administration that was designed to stimulate large-scale investment in renewable energy.

All told, Trump's initiatives are likely to mean an additional 7 billion tonnes of emissions will be created compared to a scenario where the US met its Paris commitments.

This is bad news. But what implications will it have for international climate cooperation?

DARK CLOUDS ON THE CLIMATE HORIZON

Clearly, 7 billion tonnes of additional emissions is a problem. By some accounts, this represents around one-fifth of the global carbon budget if we are to keep to the Paris target of under 2°C.

And when the world's most powerful state, largest economy and second-largest greenhouse gas emitter walks away from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), it does not bode well for international climate action.

Of course, this raises the question of how the Brazilian climate talks organisers can motivate states to adopt strong emissions targets when wealthy, high-emitting countries walk away. There is a real risk that the US position takes the pressure off other high-emitting countries, such as the Gulf States and Russia, who are disproportionately responsible for the problem.

Finally, climate finance – financial resources used to support action on climate change – looms once again as a crucial issue at climate negotiations. Securing sufficient funding will be far more complicated given Trump's "America First" platform, which prioritises foreign and domestic policies serving US interests.

LEADERSHIP WITHOUT THE US

A first point in the case for cautious optimism is that global emissions have potentially peaked and are on the verge of decline for the first time since the Industrial Revolution.

This has been driven by unprecedented global investment in renewable energy.

The energy market is changing rapidly despite aggressive US subsidies for the fossil fuel sector. Global energy investment is likely to top AUD 1.5 trillion in 2025. Meanwhile, coal, oil and natural gas will see the first decline in global investment since the Covid pandemic.

There are also signs other countries, like China, view the US position as an opportunity. Last month Beijing outlined a target for emissions reduction for the first time in its history.

China may want to make a case for itself as a responsible global leader in contrast to the US.

So far, there's no evidence countries have used US backsliding as an excuse to pull back from international cooperation.

Even at home, Trump's position has not amounted to a death knell for climate action. California, whose governor Gavin Newsom famously parodied Trump's communication style on social media, already oversees one of the world's largest emissions trading schemes and has entered into a climate partnership with Brazil to further cooperation ahead of COP30.

All in all, there are grounds for cautious optimism, even hope, that the rest of the world might band together without US leadership.

EYES ON COP

Negotiators at next month's COP30 talks will face formidable challenges which have only become more pressing as a result of the Trump administration's climate stance.

But past experience suggests hard-fought COP negotiations can build strong momentum for global action by focusing international attention.

Perhaps they can build pressure on the US to come back into the fold, or at least enable pro-climate actors within US to pursue reform despite Trump's interference. *—The Conversation*

For some Israelis, saving hostages means freeing loved one's killer

On Tal Hartuv's chest is a jagged scar, one of 18 stab wounds on her body from a brutal attack outside Jerusalem in 2010 that killed her friend. Next to the 7-centimetre mark rests a dog tag inscribed with the words "Our heart is captive in Gaza," a popular symbol of support for a ceasefire deal exchanging Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

On Friday, as many were celebrating a deal between Israel and Hamas after two years of war, Hartuv read through the list of Palestinian prisoners set to be released and saw the name Iyad Hassan Hussein Fatafta — one of three men who tried to kill her and who was convicted of killing her friend, American tourist Kristine Luken.

Survivors like Hartuv and families of those killed in attacks have faced a wrenching dilemma throughout the war: Should the killers of their loved ones go free, risking future attacks, or should hostages held in the Gaza Strip be left to their fate?

"I can feel thrilled and hopeful and joyful that our hostages are coming home," said Hartuv, who changed her name as part of her rehabilitation.

"But I can still feel angry, I can feel betrayed, I can feel hollow. They're not mutually exclusive," she said.

People wave Israeli flags as a military helicopter carrying Israeli freed hostages arrives at Beilinson hospital in Petah Tikva, Israel, after they were released from Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip; People gather to watch a live broadcast of Israeli hostages being released on Monday
PHOTO: PTI

No one from the Israeli government reached out to let her know he would likely be released.

She received the list from a journalist.

By Monday, Hamas is to begin releasing the remaining 48 Israeli hostages held in Gaza, around 20 of them believed to be alive. Israel will release around 2,000 Palestinians, including senior militants convicted of deadly attacks, as well as people convicted of lesser offences and those held without charge under what is known as administrative detention.

'WE NEED TO BRING THEM BACK'

Twenty-two years ago, a suicide bomber blew up Bus 37 in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, killing 17 people, including nine children heading home from school.

Israel convicted five Palestinians of assisting the bomber. Three were released in 2011 as part of an exchange for Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier held in Gaza. A fourth was released during the last ceasefire, earlier this year.

For years, Yossi Zur, whose 17-year-old son, Asaf, was killed in the 2003 Haifa bombing, was a leader campaigning against releases, especially against the 2011 exchange, in which 1,027 Palestinian prisoners were released.

Zur remembers being heartbroken as buses were loaded with convicted militants leaving prison. Those released in the Shalit deal included Yahya Sinwar, who went on to orchestrate the 7 October, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Sinwar became Hamas' top leader before he was killed by Israeli troops last year.

But when fellow activists reached out to him to protest the ceasefire exchanges in the current war, he declined.

"With the amount of people that were taken on 7 October, and with a range of ages, I just came to the conclusion that it's not going to be worth the fight this time," he said. "We need to bring them back."

WORST HOSTAGE CRISIS ISRAEL HAS FACED

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in the 7 October attack and abducted 251. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 67,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were militants.

In a previous ceasefire this year, Israel released nearly 1,800 Palestinians, including around 230 serving lengthy sentences for deadly attacks, in exchange for 25 hostages and the bodies of eight others. Most prisoners convicted of deadly attacks were deported.

After previous releases, joyful crowds welcomed them home, adding to the agony of the families of Israeli victims.

'I WANT TO TRY & MAKE ISRAEL A SAFER PLACE'

Ron Kehrmann's 17-year-old daughter, Tal, a popular high school senior who loved singing and doodling, was also killed on Bus 37. He still cries whenever he thinks of her.

It feels better to focus on his activism, he says. He remains staunchly opposed to the release of Palestinian prisoners, saying it's about deterring attacks. "I want to try and make Israel a safer place," he said.

A DECISION TO MAINTAIN EMPATHY

Since receiving the news of her attacker's impending release, Hartuv has felt herself sinking into feelings of anger and betrayal. When that happens, she said, she pulls up a photo of a hostage on her phone, or their anguished parents, and looks in their eyes.

"It doesn't melt me, but it creates that room for empathy and reminds me there's another side of the coin," she said.

It's the ability to go back and forth between those heartbreaking stories, holding space for both, that Hartuv wishes more people would emulate. She feels that Israeli discourse has been so fixated on the hostages that people who raise questions about the price of the deal have been pushed aside.

She doesn't want to stop the deal, but after the hostages return, she wants some recognition for the price Israel, and she in particular, had to pay, and for the fear that this could lead to more attacks. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

42 killed in bus crash in South Africa's mountains

JOHANNESBURG, 13 OCT

At least 42 people have died following a devastating bus crash in a mountainous region of northern South Africa, authorities confirmed on Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday along the N1 highway near Louis Trichardt, approximately 400 kilometres north of Pretoria. Simon Zwane, a spokesperson for the Road Traffic Management Corporation, told News24 that while authorities have confirmed 42 fatalities, they are still in the process of verifying the full count of the deceased and injured. Reports indicate that the bus veered off the road on a steep mountain pass and plunged into an embankment. The bus was travelling from the Eastern Cape region to Zimbabwe and Malawi. *—PTI*

8 Indian-origin men held for mail thefts in Canada

OTTAWA, 13 OCT

Canadian police have arrested eight Indian-origin men in connection with a series of mail thefts, including stolen credit cards and cheques, totalling over CAD 400,000. Peel police recovered more than 450 pieces of stolen mail during the investigation, dubbed "Project Undeliverable," launched in April with the collaboration of Halton police and Canada Post. "The investigation uncovered a group of individuals working together to target residential mailboxes, resulting in widespread theft and disruption to community members," said a statement. The suspects, aged between 21 and 29, face 344 charges, including theft and possession of property obtained by crime. Authorities are discussing deportation measures for some of the foreign nationals and the accused. *—PTI*

France appoints new Cabinet as turmoil grows

PARIS, 13 OCT

France's newly reappointed Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu named a new government Sunday, as he faces pressure to urgently produce a budget and quell political turmoil that is scaring businesses and investors and staining the country's image. The Cabinet includes several familiar faces from previous governments who hail from French President Emmanuel Macron's Centrist camp, as well as allied Conservatives, and some people from outside the political sphere. It is unclear how long this new team will last. Immediately after the President's office announced the new Cabinet, the conservative Republicans party said it was expelling the six party members who agreed to join the government. *—PTI*

Dutch govt takes control of Chinese company

THE HAGUE, 13 OCT

The Dutch government has unusually intervened and taken control of the Chinese-owned semiconductor company Nexperia, which makes chips used in industries including automotive and consumer technology, citing "acute signals of serious governance shortcomings and actions within Nexperia." In a statement released late Sunday, the Dutch ministry of economic affairs said it had invoked the rarely used Goods Availability Act because the concerns about Nexperia's governance "posed a threat to the continuity and safeguarding on Dutch and European soil of crucial technological knowledge and capabilities." The government said that"company decisions may be blocked or reversed by the Minister of Economic Affairs if they are (potentially) harmful to" the company or Europe's supply chain. *—PTI*

Israel won war, time for peace: Trump

Left protests against Don's speech before he left for Egypt

TEL AVIV, 13 OCT

US President Donald Trump told Israeli lawmakers on Monday that their country had no more to achieve on the battlefield and must work toward peace in the Middle East after two years of war against Hamas and skirmishes with Hezbollah and Iran. Although the US-brokered truce between Israel and Hamas remains fragile, Trump is determined to seize an opportunity to chase an elusive regional harmony.

"Generations from now, this will be remembered as the moment that everything began to change," he declared to the Knesset, which welcomed him as a hero.

"Israel, with our help, has won all that they can by force of arms," Trump said. "You've won. I mean, you've won. Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East."

Trump promised to help rebuild Gaza, which has been devastated during the conflict, and urged Palestinians to "turn forever from the path of terror and violence."

"After tremendous pain and death and hardship, now is the time to concentrate on building their people up instead of trying to tear Israel down.

Trump even plans to make a gesture to Iran, where he bombed three nuclear sites during the country's brief war with Israel earlier this year, by saying "the hand of friendship and cooperation is always open."

However, the minority Left in the Knesset protested as Trump spoke in the Parliament.

The US President will continue on to Egypt for a summit with more than two dozen other nations. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was supposed to join Trump, and Egypt even announced his attendance but his office said later that he would not be attending. *—PTI*

President Donald Trump reacts as he receives a standing ovation before speaking at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, on Monday, in Jerusalem **PHOTO: PTI**

Israel welcomed Trump with a massive 'thank you' painted across the Jerusalem beach **PHOTO: X**

People gather at a plaza known as the hostages square in Tel Aviv, Israel, Monday before the release of Israeli hostages **PHOTO: PTI**

Thousands rejoice as hostages released

TEL AVIV, 13 OCT

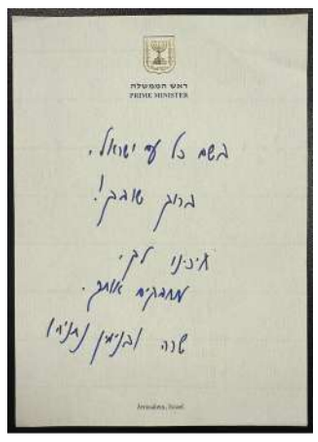
Tens of thousands of Israelis watched the hostage transfers at public screenings across the country. In Tel Aviv, families and friends of the hostages broke into wild cheers as television channels announced that the first group was in the hands of the Red Cross.

The freed hostages, all men, were later reunited with their families, and footage released by Israeli authorities showed tearful reunions.

The bodies of the remaining dead hostages are also to be handed over as part of the deal, although the exact timing is unclear.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank rejoiced as buses carrying dozens of released prisoners from Ofer Prison arrived in Beitunia, near Ramallah, as Israel began releasing more than 1,900 prisoners and detainees as part of the ceasefire deal.

Later, giant crowds gathered to greet buses carrying other prisoners arriving at Nasser Hospital in Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis.



PM Netanyahu's note to the hostages saying 'we've been waiting for you' **PHOTO: ANI**

The prisoners include 250 people serving life sentences for convictions in attacks on Israelis, in addition to 1,700 seized from Gaza during the war and held without charge. They will be returned to the West Bank or Gaza or sent into exile. The hostages' return caps a painful chapter for Israel. *—PTI*

27 people killed in militant clashes

At least 27 people were killed in clashes between Hamas security forces and armed members of the Dughmush family in Gaza City on Sunday. Among the dead was Palestinian journalist Saleh Aljafarawi, who was on the scene to cover the clashes, one of the first since the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel.

US- backed food sites shut down in Gaza

Food distribution sites run by the controversial US and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation are being shut down under the terms of the ceasefire deal, an Egyptian official and another official said on Sunday. The Gaza Health Ministry says at least 2,500 people were killed and hundreds more wounded seeking aid, on route to GHF sites or waiting at the sites.

Solved 8 wars, Pak-Afghan next: Trump on Nobel

NEW YORK, 13 OCT

After missing the Nobel Peace Prize, US President Donald Trump has claimed to have resolved eight wars, including between India and Pakistan and Israel's war on Gaza, saying that he did not do it for the Nobel. While talking to reporters on board Air Force One on Sunday, he also hinted at planning to resolve the ongoing conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"This will be my eighth war that I have solved, and I hear there is a war now going on between Pakistan and Afghanistan. I said, I'll have to wait till I get back. I am doing another one. Because I am good at solving wars. I am good at making peace," he said.

Trump also claimed that he resolved most of these wars "within a day", saving "millions of lives". He added that the prize announced by the Nobel committee was for 2024, while he resolved these wars in 2025. *—PTI*

May give Ukraine Tomahawks if war doesn't end, says Trump

WASHINGTON, 13 OCT

US President Donald Trump on Sunday warned Russia that he may send Ukraine long-range Tomahawk missiles if Moscow doesn't settle the war soon.

"I might say, 'Look: if this war is not going to get settled, I'm going to send them Tomahawks," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Israel. "The Tomahawk is an incredible weapon, very offensive weapon. And honestly, Russia does not need that."

He added, "I might tell them (Russia) that if the war is not settled — that we may very well—we may not, but we may do it. I think it's appropriate to bring up."

Tomahawk missiles have a range of 2,500km, which would put Moscow within reach for Ukraine.

However, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday on Fox News that he would only use the Tomahawk's to target Russian military, promising not to target civilians.

Trump's comments came after he spoke by phone earlier Sunday with Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Russia has previously warned the US against providing long-range missiles to Kyiv, saying it would cause a major escalation in the conflict and strain US-Russian relations. *—Agencies*

> **The delivery of these missiles could end badly for everyone. And first of all – for Trump himself**
>
> —Dmitry Medvedev, former Russian president

Tomahawk missiles **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

Vance warns of 'painful' cuts as shutdown continues

WASHINGTON, 13 OCT

US Vice President JD Vance on Sunday said there will be "deeper" cuts to the federal workforce the longer the government shutdown goes on, adding to the uncertainty facing hundreds of thousands who are already furloughed without pay.

Vance warned that as the federal shutdown entered its 12th day, the new cuts would be "painful," even as he said the Trump administration worked to ensure that the military is paid this week and some services would be preserved for low-income Americans, including food assistance. "The longer this goes on, the deeper the cuts are going to be," he said on Fox News' 'Sunday Morning Futures.'

Labour unions have already filed a lawsuit to stop the aggressive move by President Donald Trump's Office of Management & Budget. *—PTI*

'RISKED CONSEQUENCES'

Australia's under-16 social media ban difficult: Google

SYDNEY, 13 OCT

Alphabet-owned Google on Monday said Australia's upcoming ban on social media use by people under 16 would be 'extremely difficult' to enforce and would not make children safer online.

The law, part of the Online Safety Amendment passed in November 2024, will take effect in December, making Australia the first country to block social media access for minors. Companies have until 10 December to deactivate underage accounts.

Social media platforms will not need to verify users' ages directly but will be required to use artificial intelligence and behavioural data to infer them.

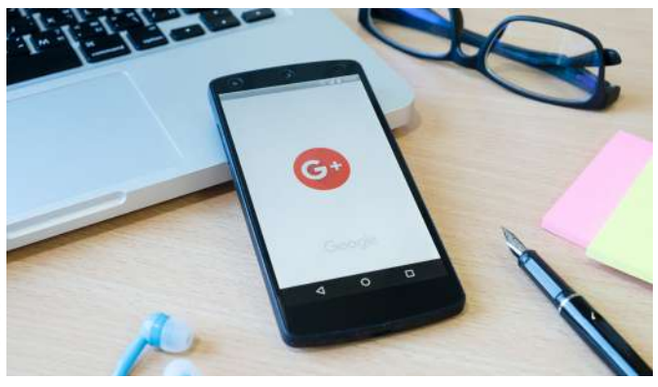
At a parliamentary hearing on Monday, YouTube's senior manager of government affairs in Australia, Rachel Lord, said the policy was well-intentioned but risked unintended consequences.

"The legislation will not only be extremely difficult to enforce, it also does not fulfil its promise of making kids safer online," she said.

Asked whether Google was urging Washington to raise the issue during Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's upcoming meeting with US President Donald Trump, Google Australia's government affairs director Stef Lovett said US colleagues were aware of the challenges facing the company in Australia.

In July, Australia added YouTube to the list of covered platforms, reversing an earlier exemption due to its educational use, after complaints from other tech firms. Google maintains YouTube is a video-sharing site, not a social media platform.

"Well-crafted legislation can enhance online safety," Lord said. "But keeping kids safe isn't about keeping them offline. Parents need better tools and controls."*—Agencies*



PHOTOS: FREEPIK

- Social media platforms will not need to verify users' ages directly but will be required to use artificial intelligence and behavioural data to infer them.

POLICE, PROTESTERS CLASH IN ECUADOR OVER FUEL PRICES

QUITO, 13 OCT

Protests erupted in Ecuador's capital on Sunday as demonstrators took to the streets against a significant increase in fuel prices, igniting clashes with police who deployed tear gas in response. These nationwide demonstrations, organised by Ecuador's largest Indigenous organisation, follow the removal of a fuel subsidy that raised diesel prices from $1.80 to $2.80 per gallon.

The protests have turned violent, resulting in one reported death, numerous injuries, and over a hundred arrests. President Daniel Noboa has declared a state of emergency in ten provinces, limiting public gatherings in Quito and other regions. Demonstrators shouted, "Noboa out, out!" as they marched toward a park in northern Quito, but police on motorbikes swiftly dispersed the crowd. Union leader Nelson Erazo stated, "We are rising up against the neoliberal and hunger-inducing policies of the dictator Noboa," highlighting the impact of fuel price hikes on Indigenous communities reliant on agriculture and transport. Although Noboa has offered bonuses to farmers and transport workers, he refused to engage with federation. *—PTI*

ARMED PROTEST

Cop among 5 killed in Islamabad clashes

ISLAMABAD, 13 OCT

- One police official, one civilian and three protesters were killed and over 40 people were injured

At least five people, including a police officer, were killed and dozens of officers injured when thousands of members of a radical Islamist group clashed with security personnel on Monday in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said.

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) had launched its protest from Lahore on Friday with the announcement to march up to the US embassy in Islamabad and give a sit-in in support of the people of Gaza.

Police launched a five-hour operation which ended early Monday to clear the demonstrators, as protestors armed with nail-sticks, bricks, petrol bombs and even guns fought back relentlessly.

"One police official was killed and 48 injured, including 17 who got gun wounds," a police official said, adding that one civilian and three protesters were also killed, while another eight were injured.

Punjab Police claimed that the protesters set fire to 40 government and private vehicles, while law-enforcing agencies arrested several protestors.

TLP supporters protested in Lahore as well. *—PTI*

Police launched a 5-hour operation which ended early Monday to clear the demonstrators **PHOTO: X**

PHOTO: FREPIK

Rupee rises by 5P, closes at 88.67 against USD

MUMBAI, 13 OCT

The rupee appreciated five paise to close at 88.67 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by suspected RBI intervention and fresh foreign fund inflows. Forex traders said the domestic unit faced some resistance as renewed trade war tensions between the US and China led to risk aversion in global markets. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.75 and traded in the range of 88.57-88.79 before settling at 88.67 (provisional), registering a rise of 5 paise than its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.13 per cent higher at 99.10, as safe-haven demand for dollars continues keeping the dollar well bid. *—PTI*

Andhra to raise ₹11.9K cr via govt securities auction

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT

Andhra Pradesh is set to raise an additional Rs 10,000 crore through the auction of state government securities in the open market during the October to December quarter, as per the Indicative Calendar of Market Borrowings issued by the state government. On 7 October, Andhra Pradesh successfully garnered Rs 1,900 crore through bonds auction. As outlined by the Reserve Bank of India, the state is anticipated to secure Rs 5,000 crore on 4 November and another Rs 5,000 crore on 25 November. By the end of August, the state's borrowings had reached Rs 55,901.43 crore, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of the estimated Rs 79,926.89 crore earmarked in the budget. *—PTI*

Tryfacta to file IPO papers, eyes $150M

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

US-based IT and staffing firm Tryfacta Inc plans to file draft papers by month-end for an IPO at GIFT City to raise USD 100–150 million, people familiar with the matter said. The firm will list on India INX or NSE International Exchange, the two bourses operating at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City. Yoki Financial Services, a Mefcom Capital arm and IFSCA-registered investment bank, has been appointed as the lead manager. Founded in 1996 by Adesh and Ratika Tyagi, California-headquartered Tryfacta provides AI-driven IT, staffing, and payroll solutions to US government and institutional clients, including the Defense Health Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, and Department of Veterans Affairs. *—PTI*

World's 1st semiconductor museum in Hyd

HYDERABAD, 13 OCT

T-Chip has launched the world's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum (SIM) in Hyderabad to showcase breakthrough technologies and research in the chip-making industry. "We are very happy to inaugurate the T-Chip Semiconductor Innovation Museum. It's the world's first innovation museum dedicated exclusively to semiconductors," said Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala. The museum will feature 20 top innovations, each displayed for 30 days before being replaced with new entries. It will be open to researchers, innovators, investors, and the public, serving as a global knowledge exchange platform. Makthala said the initiative aims to attract investors and promote semiconductor talent in India, with plans to establish similar museums across universities in Telangana and abroad. *—ANI*

Foxconn plans Rs 15,000 cr investment in Tamil Nadu

This move is part of Foxconn's next phase of growth in India

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Electronics giant Foxconn has announced a major investment of Rs 15,000 crore in Tamil Nadu to expand its advanced technology manufacturing operations.

The move marks a significant step in strengthening Foxconn's long-term partnership with the southern state and is expected to generate 14,000 high-value jobs, primarily for engineering graduates and skilled youth, Guidance Tamil Nadu posted on social media 'X'.

'Guidance' is the Government of Tamil Nadu's nodal agency for investment promotion and single window facilitation.

The announcement came after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin met with a Foxconn delegation led by Robert Wu, the company's India Representative and senior global executive.

The meeting, held in the presence of Tamil Nadu's Minister for Industries, TRB Rajaa, reaffirmed Foxconn's growing trust in Tamil Nadu's industrial ecosystem and its role in India's technology manufacturing push.

Guidance is the Tamil Nadu government's nodal agency for investment promotion and single window facilitation *PHOTO: FOXCONN*

In a statement shared by Rajaa, the state confirmed that Foxconn will establish India's first-ever "Foxconn Desk" at Guidance Tamil Nadu, the state's investment promotion agency.

The desk will serve as a dedicated coordination point to fast-track projects, facilitate investor engagement, and ensure mission-mode execution across ongoing and future operations.

Rajaa said on X, "Yet another major boost for Tamil Nadu's electronics and advanced manufacturing sector as Honourable @CMOTamilNadu Thiru. @MKStalin avargal met with Foxconn's India Representative, Mr Robert Wu, to reaffirm their deep trust in Tamil Nadu with substantial investment commitments. Foxconn will bring its next phase of value-added manufacturing, R&D integration and AI-led advanced tech operations to Tamil Nadu."

The expansion is part of Foxconn's next phase of growth in India, shifting from assembly-based operations to technology-led production and innovation.

The Industries Minister also noted, "The first-ever Foxconn Desk in India will ensure seamless facilitation and mission-mode execution! We are setting the stage for #DravidianModel 2.0." *—ANI*

NSE CEO Ashish Kimar Chauhan, Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekatan, Tata Capital Managing Director & CEO Rajiv Sabharwal, and Chairman Saurabh Agarawal during the IPO Listing *PHOTO: PTI*

Tata Capital makes muted mkt debut

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Shares of non-banking financial company Tata Capital Ltd made their muted market debut on Monday, closing just over 1 per cent higher against the issue price of Rs 326.

The stock began trading at Rs 330 on both BSE and NSE, representing a 1.22 per cent premium.

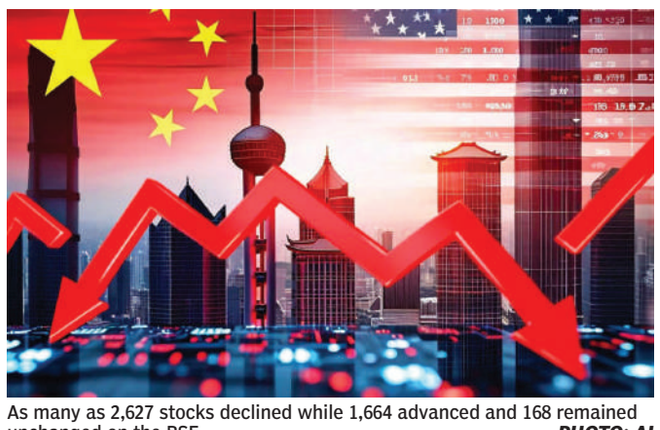
The BSE and settled at Rs 330.40, up 1.34 per cent, while the NSE stock ended at Rs 330.50, a 1.38 per cent gain.

The company's market valuation now stands at Rs 1,40,250.47 crore.

Trading volumes were robust, with 99.83 lakh shares changing hands on the BSE and 1,176.12 lakh shares on the NSE.

Tata Capital's IPO, the largest of 2025, raised Rs 15,512 crore, receiving 1.95 times subscription. The offer comprised 21 crore fresh shares and 26.58 crore shares under Offer For Sale, priced at Rs 310 to Rs 326 per share.

The listing was mandated under RBI regulations for upper-layer NBFCs, which require them to list within three years of classification. Proceeds will strengthen the company's Tier-1 capital base, supporting future capital requirements including onward lending. *—PTI*



As many as 2,627 stocks declined while 1,664 advanced and 168 remained unchanged on the BSE *PHOTO: AI*

Markets decline amid US-China trade tension

MUMBAI, 13 OCT

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell on Monday due to selling in IT and FMCG shares and a weak trend in global markets after US President Donald Trump announced an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods from 1 November.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 173.77 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 82,327.05, snapping its two-day rally. After a gap-down opening, it tanked 457.68 points or 0.55 per cent to a low of 82,043.14. However, resilience in banking and financial majors helped limit the downside in the second half.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 58 points or 0.23 per cent to 25,227.35 as 30 of its constituents closed lower, 19 with gains and one unchanged.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors fell the most by 2.67 per cent a day ahead of the record date for determining shareholders' eligibility for receiving shares in the demerged commercial vehicle business.

Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Bharat Electronics, ITC, UltraTech Cement and Tata Consultancy Services were also among the laggards. However, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and Axis Bank were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.43 per cent, and the midcap dipped 0.18 per cent.

Financial Services, utilities, bankex, services, power and realty were the gainers.

As many as 2,627 stocks declined while 1,664 advanced and 168 remained unchanged on the BSE. *—PTI*

Gold hits record high of ₹1.27L/10g

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Gold prices rallied by Rs 1,950 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,27,950 per 10g in the national capital on Monday, driven by safe-haven demand amid renewed US-China trade tensions.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,26,000 per 10g on Friday.

In addition, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 1,950 to touch an all-time high of Rs 1,27,350 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes).

The yellow metal had settled at Rs 1,25,400 per 10g in the previous market session.

The US administration's announcement of a 100 per cent tariff hike on select Chinese products, coupled with China's threat to restrict rare earth exports, has heightened global uncertainty and risk aversion.

Spot gold rose nearly 2 per cent to hit a fresh record high of $4,084.99 per ounce *PHOTO: PTI*

Silver prices too witnessed robust traction in the spot markets. The white metal bounced by Rs 7,500 to hit a new record of Rs 1,79,000 per kgram (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. It had finished at Rs 1,71,500 per kg on Friday, as per the Association.

In the international markets, spot gold rose nearly 2 per cent to hit a fresh record high of USD 4,084.99 per ounce. *—PTI*

India-US trade talks progress amid tariff row

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

A team of senior Indian officials is scheduled to visit the US this week for the sixth round of negotiations on the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), aimed at more than doubling bilateral trade from $191 billion to $500 billion by 2030.

A top official said the talks are "progressing well" and both sides agree they should be fast-tracked.

The first tranche of the pact is planned for conclusion by late 2025.

The deliberations are significant as India-US relations have been strained following the Trump administration's 50 per cent tariffs on certain Indian goods, including a 25 per cent penalty on Russian crude oil purchases, which India has described as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable."

Concerns over H1B visa policies have also been raised by Indian industry.

Recent phone conversations between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump, and last month's meetings in New York between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and the US trade representatives, have raised hopes for a more positive outcome. *—PTI*

SC refuses Asian Paints' plea against mkt abuse probe

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea by Asian Paint against the Competition Commission of India's order directing an investigation against it for allegedly abusing its dominant position in the market for manufacturing and sale of decorative paints.

A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi refused to interfere with the Bombay High Court order, which upheld the CCI probe. As the apex court was not inclined to entertain the matter, the matter was dismissed as withdrawn.

The CCI direction followed a complaint filed by Grasim Industries (Birla Paints Division), which accused Asian Paints of engaging in exclusionary practices aimed at stifling its entry and growth in the Indian decorative paints segment.

"The Commission is of the opinion that a prima facie case of contravention of the provisions of section 4(2)(a)(i), 4(2)(c) and 4(2)(d) of the Act by the OP (Asian Paints) is made out in the present matter," CCI had said in the order. *—PTI*

'Tea production declines in August 2025'

KOLKATA, 13 OCT

Tea production in August 2025 dropped significantly year-on-year, reaching 170.12 million kilogram compared to 184.45 million kilogram in August 2024, according to data from the Tea Board.

In Assam, production saw a slight decline to 103.52 million kilogram from 104.46 million kilogram in the same month last year. West Bengal also experienced a downturn, with production falling to 45.90 million kilograms in August 2025 from 56.08 million kilogram in August 2024.

Combined, tea production in North India fell to 153.99 million kilogram, down from 166.15 million kilogram in August 2024. South India reflected a similar trend, with total production dropping to 16.13 million kilogram this August.

In terms of tea varieties, CTC production in North India decreased to 135.59 million kilogram from 150.76 million kilogram year-on-year, while South India's CTC tea production fell to 13.13 million kilogram from 15.41 million kilogram. Conversely, Orthodox variety production rose significantly to 19.22 million kilogram. *—PTI*

Crude oil prices rise amid US-China tensions

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Crude oil futures surged Rs 96 to Rs 5,342 per barrel in domestic trade on Monday, following strong global cues amid renewed concerns over US-China trade tensions. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), October crude futures rose 1.83 per cent in a turnover of 10,926 lots, while November contracts gained Rs 70, or 1.34 per cent, to Rs 5,308 per barrel in 9,764 lots.

Internationally, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for November delivery increased 1.88 per cent to USD 60.01 per barrel, while Brent crude for December delivery climbed nearly 2 per cent to USD 63.84 per barrel in New York. *—PTI*

Drishti: World's first multi-sensor EO satellite

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Space-tech start-up GalaxEye on Monday said it will launch the world's first multi-sensor Earth observation (EO) satellite, 'Mission Drishti' in the first quarter of 2026, marking the beginning of setting up a constellation of satellites over the next four years.

The satellite, offering 1.5 meter resolution, will enable governments, defence agencies and industries to perform advanced geospatial analysis across a wide range of applications, including border surveillance, disaster management, defence, utilities and infrastructure monitoring, agriculture, as well as financial and insurance assessment — providing real-time environmental and structural insights.

The company plans to launch 8-10 satellites over the next four years.

Weighing 160kg, the Mission Drishti is India's largest privately built satellite and also the highest-resolution satellite developed in the country. *—PTI*

OVER 7 CR SUBSCRIBERS

EPFO eases part withdrawals, allows 100% withdrawals

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

The board of retirement fund body EPFO on Monday approved liberalised part withdrawals for its more than seven crore subscribers, allowing up to 100 per cent EPF withdrawal.

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of EPFO, headed by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, took several path-breaking decisions during its meeting, a Labour Ministry statement said on Monday.

To enhance the Ease of Living of EPF members, the CBT decided to simplify the partial withdrawal provisions of the EPF Scheme by merging 13 complex provisions into a single, streamlined rule categorised into three types, namely, Essential Needs (illness, education, marriage), Housing Needs and Special Circumstances.

Now, the member can apply without assigning any reasons under this category *PHOTO: PTI*

Now, members will be able to withdraw up to 100 per cent of the eligible balance in the Provident Fund, including employee and employer share.

Withdrawal limits have been liberalised—education withdrawals allowed up to 10 times and marriage up to 5 times (from the existing limit of a total of 3 partial withdrawals for marriage & education in all).

- Withdrawal limits have been liberalised—education withdrawals allowed up to 10 times and marriage up to 5 times.

The requirement for minimum service has been uniformly reduced to only 12 months for all partial withdrawals.

Earlier, under 'Special Circumstances,' the member was required to clarify the reasons for partial withdrawals viz. natural calamity, lockouts/closure of establishments, continuous unemployment, outbreak of epidemic, etc.

This often led to rejection of claims and consequent grievances.

Now, the member can apply without assigning any reasons under this category.

A provision has been made for earmarking 25 per cent of the contributions in the Members' account as Minimum Balance to be maintained by the member at all times. This will enable the member to enjoy a high rate of interest offered by EPFO (presently 8.25 per cent pa) along with compounding benefits to accumulate a high-value retirement corpus.

This rationalization enhances ease of access while ensuring members maintain a sufficient retirement corpus.

Scheme provision simplification along with greater flexibility and zero need for any documentation will pave the way for 100 per cent auto settlement of claims for partial withdrawal and ensure ease of living. *—PTI*

Afghanistan is likely to pull out of tri-series

KARACHI, 13 OCT

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has started working on an alternate plan as serious doubts have arisen over Afghanistan's participation in an upcoming T20 Tri-Series here amid military conflict between the two countries. The tri-angular series, also involving Sri Lanka, is scheduled to be held from November 17-29. "The PCB chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, has asked the International Cricket Council to start working on an alternate plan as he wants the Tri-Series to go ahead," a source said. The PCB has also invited Sri Lanka to play three T20 internationals between November 11 and 15, before they take part in the Tri-Series alongside Afghanistan and Pakistan. Interestingly, the Pakistan and Sri Lankan boards are also holding talks for a hurriedly arranged three-match T20 series in Colombo between 1-10 January.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@RISAKO

Champion on mat: Kinjo embraces retirement at 30

SHANGHAI, 13 OCT

Japan's Risako Kinjo said her wrestling career had given her a sense of fulfillment after the double Olympic gold medallist announced her retirement at the age of 30. Four-time world champion Kinjo took gold in the 63kg category in Rio in 2016 and stood on top of the podium on home soil in Tokyo five years later by winning the 57kg class. Her sister Yukako also claimed wrestling gold in Tokyo, winning the 62kg event. I've experienced all the joy that comes from being an athlete," said Kinjo, who won her final world championships title in 2024, two years after she had given birth to her first child. "I feel fulfilled." —*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@OLLIE

England vs Latvia: Watkins ruled out of WC qualifier

LONDON, 13 OCT

Ollie Watkins has returned to Aston Villa after an injury ruled him out of England's World Cup qualifying game against Latvia on Tuesday, as captain Harry Kane is set for a possible return. Watkins scored in England's 3-0 win over Wales in a friendly on Thursday but was substituted at halftime after colliding with the goalpost. "The Aston Villa striker has not recovered from the knock sustained against Wales at Wembley on Thursday evening and has returned to his club," England said in a statement. Watkins is the second player to leave the squad after defender Jarell Quansah returned to Bayer Leverkusen.—*PTI*

Ghana fifth African nation, qualifies for 2026 World Cup

ACCRA, 13 OCT

Ghana became the fifth African nation to qualify for the 2026 World Cup on Sunday. The 2010 quarterfinalist joins Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia at next year's tournament in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Ghana needed a point against Comoros in its final game in Group I to be certain of qualifying for back-to-back World Cups and sealed its place with a 1-0 win at Accra Sports Stadium. In the end, it didn't even need that after second-placed Madagascar lost 4-1 to Mali.Tottenham forward Mohammed Kudus scored the decisive goal in the 47th minute to ensure Ghana qualified in style. —*PTI*

Denmark Open: Satwik-Chirag pair eyes first title of season

Indian doubles stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty PHOTO: PTI

ODENSE, 13 OCT

Indian doubles stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will look to convert their impressive run of form into a title when they spearhead the country's campaign at the USD 950,000 Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Seeded sixth, the Asian Games champions will open against Scotland's Christopher Grimley and Matthew Grimley.

Satwik and Chirag have been India's standout performers this season, reaching back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong and China Masters Super 750 tournaments. The duo also secured a second World Championships bronze in Paris, apart from a string of semifinal finishes.

In men's singles, world No. 28 Ayush Shetty, who clinched his maiden BWF Super 300 crown at the US Open earlier this year, will face France's Toma Junior Popov in his opening round.

The 19-year-old reached the Hong Kong Super 500 quarterfinals but has struggled for rhythm in recent weeks, suffering early exits at the Korea and China events and a defeat to Olympic silver medallist Kunlavut Vitidsarn at the Arctic Open.

Lakshya Sen, ranked 19th, will take on Ireland's Nhat Nguyen. The 2021 world championships bronze-medallist had rediscovered form with a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Super 500 in September, ending a lean spell since his fourth-place finish at the Paris Olympics. However, defeats to Japan's Kodai Naraoka and Vitidsarn in recent outings have underlined the need for consistency. In women's singles, young Anmol Kharb, who made her maiden Super 500 semifinal appearance at Arctic Open last week, will face seventh seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia in her opener. —*PTI*

Rahul, Sai steady ship; India need 58 on final day

Bowlers made to toil hard as West Indies stretch Test to Day 5

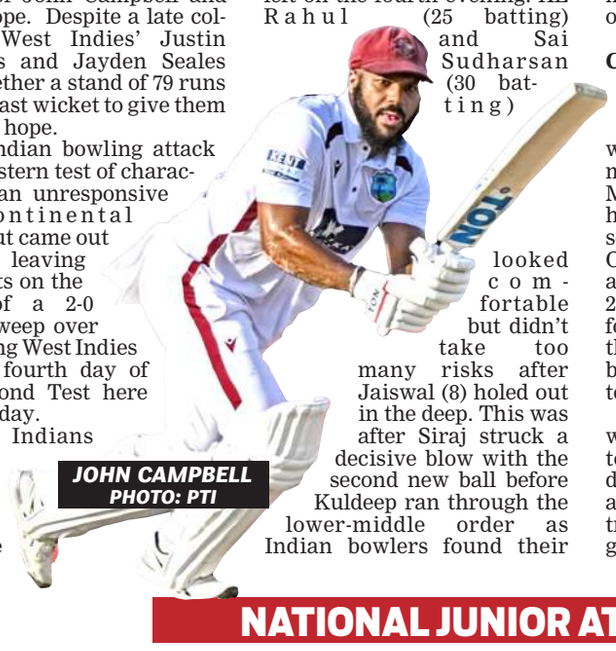
NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

India finished Day 4 just 58 runs away from victory against West Indies in the second Test in Delhi. India reached 63/1 at Stumps, chasing a target of 121.

KL Rahul and Sai Sudharsan stitched a 54-run partnership to close out the day after Yashasvi Jaiswal departed early in the run chase. Earlier, the West Indies posted 390 in their follow-on, led by the centuries of John Campbell and Shai Hope. Despite a late collapse, West Indies' Justin Greaves and Jayden Seales put together a stand of 79 runs for the last wicket to give them a ray of hope.

The Indian bowling attack faced a stern test of character on an unresponsive sub-continental track but came out trumps, leaving the hosts on the cusp of a 2-0 clean sweep over a fighting West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test here on Monday.

The Indians need another 58 runs on the final day to win the game after reaching 63 for 1 at stumps in pursuit of 121. Jasprit Bumrah (3/44 in 17.5 overs), Kuldeep Yadav (3/104 in 29 overs), Ravindra Jadeja (1/102 in 33 overs), Mohammed Siraj (2/43 in 15 overs), and Washington Sundar (1/80 in 23 overs) toiled hard for more than 118.5 overs in the second innings. They eventually bowled out the West Indies for 390, leaving the home team with a target of 121 to chase in 18 overs left on the fourth evening. KL Rahul (25 batting) and Sai Sudharsan (30 batting) looked comfortable but didn't take too many risks after Jaiswal (8) holed out in the deep. This was after Siraj struck a decisive blow with the second new ball before Kuldeep ran through the lower-middle order as Indian bowlers found their mojo in the post-lunch session on day four.



JOHN CAMPBELL PHOTO: PTI

India's captain Shubman Gill, with teammates Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja, walks off the field PHOTO: PTI

Campbell on his maiden Test century

West Indies opener John Campbell was at a loss for words after registering his maiden Test century here on Monday, and said the key to his knock was sensible shot selection. Following on, Campbell (155 off 199) and Shai Hope (103 off 214) shared 177 runs for the third wicket as the West Indies fought back, taking the match to the fifth day.

"I can't really put it into words right now. Maybe tomorrow I'll be able to describe it. We always spoke about it being a good batting track. As a batsman, once you get a start here, it becomes easier. I think I still went for my shots, it was just about being more selective," Campbell said of his maiden Test ton.

Siraj 'treated like King' in dugout on tough day

Indian cricket team fast bowler Mohammed Siraj struggled in the sweltering heat of New Delhi during Day 4 of the second Test match against the West Indies on Monday. Following a tough six-over spell in the post-lunch session, Siraj went straight to the Indian dugout, where he received some medical attention. An ice bag was placed on his head while the physiotherapist gave him a foot massage. —*PTI*

ICC WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

NZ look to build momentum against Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 13 OCT

Riding on their recent winning momentum, former champions New Zealand can ill-afford to make any errors when they take on co-hosts Sri Lanka, who are searching for their maiden win, in a crucial ICC Women's ODI World Cup match here on Tuesday.

The White Ferns, champions in 2000, were staring at an early exit after suffering back-to-back defeats to Trans-Tasman rivals Australia and South Africa. However, they managed to breathe life back into their campaign with a much-needed win against Bangladesh.

They currently sit just outside the top four, placed fifth on the points table, having secured two points from three outings and a Net Run Rate of -0.245, which they'd like to improve. Captain Sophie Devine has been the standout performer with the bat, averaging 86.66 from three innings.

Her composed knock, along with the gritty effort of No. 5 batter Brooke Halliday, helped the side claw its way back into form against Bangladesh. However, the top order's inconsistency remains a major concern for the New Zealanders. Veterans Suzie Bates, Georgia Plimmer, and Amelia Kerr have struggled to convert starts into substantial scores, leaving much of the responsibility on Devine's shoulders.

They will need to find their rhythm and apply themselves better against Sri Lanka's spin-heavy attack, especially on a surface that is expected to aid turn. The R. Premadasa Stadium here has seen four completed matches in this World Cup so far, with an average first innings total of 205. The spinners have dominated proceedings at the venue, taking 41 wickets 14 more than the pacers. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, is yet to register a win in the tournament. The Chamari Athapaththu-led side has one point from three games. —*PTI*

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka
Match starts at
3.00 pm IST

NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETICS C'SHIPS

Nishchay smashes meet record with 63.69m throw

NISHCHAY PHOTO: PTI

BHUBANESWAR, 13 OCT

Haryana's teenage discus thrower Nishchay produced a record-breaking effort to win the boys' U-18 gold on the fourth day of the 40th National Junior Athletics Championships, here on Monday. The 17-year-old hurled the 1.5kg disc to 63.69m, smashing the previous meet record of 60.17m set by Atul in 2022 in Guwahati.

His series read 63.56m, 63.69m, 61.22m, no mark, 62.62m, and no mark.

Nishchay, who had earlier bagged the shot put gold with a best of 19.48m, thus underlined his all-round strength in the throws events.

Rajasthan's Vishal Kumar won silver with 60.90m, also bettering the old record, while Usman Ali Khan of Madhya Pradesh took bronze with 58.81m. With the qualification standard for next year's World U20 Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA, set at 56m, Nishchay's performance has placed him among the leading contenders for national selection. Records were also seen in the U20 200m events with home favorite Pratik Maharana clinching the men's gold in 21.24 seconds. —*PTI*

FELICITATION CEREMONY

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and President P.T. Usha pose for a group photograph with 2024 Paris Olympics medallists in New Delhi on Monday PHOTO: PTI

Atiqa Mir bosses male pack for memorable win in RMC UAE Championship

ATIQA MIR PHOTO: PTI

AL AIN, 13 OCT

Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir bossed a male-dominated grid to become the first-ever female winner in the mini-max category of the RMC UAE Karting Championship here. In a fledgling career of many firsts, the 10-year-old took the race lead on lap four before breaking away from the pack and eventually completing a commanding win by over four seconds at the Al Ain Raceway on Sunday.

The 15-driver diverse grid represented eight different nationalities. With her stellar performance, the F1 Academy-backed driver made it a memorable RMC debut for her team, Akcel GP.

Atiqa fought adversity from third on the grid before coming out on top in a tight race. She made a decisive move on the inside for the lead and never looked back, setting a blistering pace in rather windy conditions.

The win came after a difficult last weekend, when Atiqa injured her hand, but she still managed a top-10 finish in the UAE IAME series."That felt good. It was tough for the first four laps. I was being pushed around, but I fought hard and held on. I got a run on the back straight and went for the overtake for the lead," said the racer from Jammu and Kashmir. —*PTI*

De Zorzi is unbeaten as SA struggle with spin against Pak

LAHORE, 13 OCT

South Africa's Tony de Zorzi scored an unbeaten 81 to take South Africa to 216-6 at stumps against Pakistan on the second day of the first Test on Monday, trailing by 162 runs.

De Zorzi survived several reviews in a charmed existence at the crease but provided resistance as the tourists struggled to deal with Pakistan's spin attack on a surface slowing up and with cracks beginning to show at the Gaddafi Stadium.He will resume with Senuran Muthusamy, not out on six, at the start of day three on Tuesday after Muthusamy's bowling caused a sudden collapse in Pakistan's innings earlier on Monday.

The home team was in a commanding position at 313-5 overnight, with Mohammad Rizwan 62 not out and Salman Ali Agha unbeaten on 52, and looked to be heading to an imposing total before the left-arm spinner took three wickets in four balls in the 12th over of the morning.

South Africa 216 for 6 (De Zorzi 81*, Rickelton 71, Noman 4-85) trail Pakistan 378 (Agha 93, Imam 93, Masood 76, Muthusamy 6-117) by 162 runs —*PTI*

TONY DE ZORZI PHOTO: PTI

Joshna Chinappa wins Japan Open squash title

NEW DELHI, 13 OCT

Indian squash ace Joshna Chinappa clinched her 11th PSA Tour title, beating Egypt's Haya Ali in four games in the Japan Open final in Yokohama on Monday.

The former women's world No. 10 Indian defeated the third-seeded Egyptian 11-5, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8 in 38 minutes in the summit clash of the USD 15,000 Challenger event.

Earlier, Chinappa, currently ranked 117 in the world, beat fourth seed Rana Ismail of Egypt 11-7, 11-1, 11-5 in the semifinals. Meanwhile, reigning men's national champion and world No. 29 Abhay Singh went down to French world No. 9 and fifth seed Victor Crouin 4-11, 2-11, 1-11 in the round-of-16 match of the Silicon Valley Open, a USD 130,500 PSA Gold event in Redwood City (USA) on Sunday. —PTI

MotoGP: Marquez undergoes shoulder surgery

PARIS, 13 OCT

Marc Marquez has had successful surgery on his right shoulder following the world champion's crash at the Indonesian MotoGP, his team Ducati said on Monday.

The Spaniard, who secured his seventh top-class title in Japan last month, suffered a fracture and injured ligaments in a crash in Lombok the following week. "Marc Marquez has undergone a successful operation at the Ruber Internacional Hospital in Madrid, Spain," said Ducati. —*PTI*

BWF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lalthazuala, Vennala register easy wins

GUWAHATI, 13 OCT

Lalthazuala Hmar and Vennala K registered convincing victories in their respective matches as Indian shuttlers began their individual campaigns in the BWF World Junior Championships with an all-win record here on Monday.

Having helped the team bag a historic bronze medal in the team championships, the seeded Indian players had a bye in the opening round, while the others had to get their campaign going before the bigger challenges at the National Center of Excellence. Lalthazuala was the first Indian in action and the Mizoram shuttler needed just 14 minutes to pack off Uganda's Denis Mukasa 15-4, 15-4. Later in the day, Gnana Dattu TT took time to overcome his nerves before beating Milan Mesterhazy of Hungary 5-15, 15-7, 15-7 in boys' singles, while Asian junior championships bronze medallist Vennala hammered Ireland's Siofra Flynn 15-1, 15-6 in girls' singles opening round.

Lalthazuala Hmar of Mizoram needed just 14 minutes to pack off Uganda's Denis Mukasa 15-4, 15-4 in the first round at BWF World Junior Championships PHOTO: PTI

Dattu, who did not play a single match in the team event, was the only Indian player to struggle on the opening day, and the 17-year-old blamed his nerves for the wild start. The Hyderabad-born shuttler made too many errors in the opening game and looked completely out of sorts. But he took control of the match in the second game and dominated the proceedings thereafter.

"This is my first World Juniors, and I was clearly nervous in the first game. Additionally, this is the second time that I was facing a European player, and it took me time to understand their style of play. —*PTI*